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Nabiyev Reportedly Meets Supreme Soviet Chairman; State Secretary Resigns

In an apparent effort to resolve the crisis in Tajikistan, President Nabiyev reportedly met with a high-ranking government official. Dushanbe Radio quotes Dushanbe Garrison Commander Mukhriddin Ashurov as saying: "The president came to my office at 1100. After some time, Supreme Soviet Chairman Akbarsho Iskandarov also came in and they began talking. At this time I left. I have no idea what they talked about. It was around 1300 or 1330 when first Akbarsho Iskandarov and then the president left. Where? I do not know."

Dushanbe Radio also reports that following a joint meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan, it was stated that: "The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan and the Cabinet of Ministers, in view of the existing situation, resolutely express their lack of confidence in President Rakhman Nabiyev, and consider that he has in fact been removed from power, noting also that it is impossible for him to perform his duty." They also appealed to the population "to support this action," and "to resolve all issues only through political means, talk, and by observing noble and humane ethics."

INTERFAX reports that "on Wednesday [2 September] several members of the presidential staff led by state secretary Rashid Alimov resigned and urged Rakhman Nabiyev to follow suit."

Foreign Minister, Ambassador Strauss Meet

Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Ambassador Robert Strauss met in Moscow to discuss the "current agenda of the Russian-American dialogue," according to ITAR-TASS. Also reviewed were plans for the upcoming meeting between Kozyrev and Acting Secretary of State Eagleburger, the agenda of which will focus on "working out an agreement on the further reduction of strategic offensive arms."

Georgian, Abkhazian Military Leaders Agree To Cease Fire Until 4 Sep

After meeting in Sukhumi, the Georgian capital, on 2 September, Georgian and Abkhazian military leaders signed "an agreement to cease fire and military operations until September 4," according to ITAR-TASS. National Guard Commander Kakaliya, who represented Abkhazia at the talks, said "even if politicians fail to reach agreement [at the Moscow talks], the military will meet again on September 4 to achieve a cease-fire."

Reform Coalition Tries To Force Khasbulatov Resignation

Radio Rossii reports that on the eve of the Supreme Soviet session deputies of the Reform Coalition are "launching a campaign for the resignation of Ruslan Khasbulatov," chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet. People's Deputies Leonid Volkov, Boris Zolotukhin, Petr Filippov, Vyacheslav Volkov, Nikolay Arzhannikov, Lev Ponomarev, and Yuriy Nesterov announced this yesterday at a news conference. The main reason they gave for their statements was that "the attitude of the speaker was objectively promoting the establishment of the ratio of power in Russia and confrontation between the executive and legislative authorities," which would "inevitably lead to the collapse of reform and the establishment of a dictatorship."

Ministry Denies Bacteriological Weapons Charges

LD0209210592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2026 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By diplomatic correspondent Igor Shubin]

[Text] Moscow September 3 TASS—Russia is abiding by a constructive position on the problems of monitoring the implementation of the 1972 agreement banning bacteriological weapons, a Russian Foreign Ministry official told TASS on Wednesday, commenting on reports published by the American press alleging that the Russian Government was encountering opposition by the military in winding up bacteriological weapons programmes.

The Russian Foreign Ministry proceeds from the fact that after the Russian president signed a decree in April 1992 banning all activities connected with bacteriological weapons, no such activities are taking place in Russia, which was confirmed by the corresponding authorities, the official said.

In July, 1992, the Russian side officialy informed the United Nations Organisation about the work in this field carried out by the former Soviet Union.

The document, in particular, mentioned the incidents of violation of some provisions of above-mentioned agreements in the former Soviet Union.

However, some officials from the United States of America and other Western countries keep on saying that Russia is not observing its commitments to stop developing bacteriological weapons. Their allegations are based on the evidence of one of the defectors, and they refuse to verify the information.

To dispel these doubts, Russia has twice proposed to the United States to set up a joint commission of experts which could check the information available at both sides on bacteriological weapons research. Nevertheless, Washington has not responded to the initiative, the Russian diplomat said.

In this case the silence of the American side can be regarded as a manifestation of insincerity in the solution of such problems, important for the whole mankind, as control over the termination of work on bacteriological weapons.

Four Republics Coordinate on Nuclear Arms

OW0109144992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1418 GMT 01 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondent A. Borodin and others—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The special commission on compliance with the treaty on cuts in strategic offensive weapons signed between the USSR and the USA in July, 1991, held a session in Kiev. According to the local press, its members managed to settle most of their differences.

The session involved representatives of the USA and of the 4 CIS states which inherited nuclear weapons from the former USSR: Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

According to observers, the main problem that remains to be solved is the sources of financing the process of dismantling nuclear weaponry and its subsequent scrapping.

Kazakh, U.S. Official on Nuclear Arms Reduction

LD0109172492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1517 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow September 1 TASS—The Republic of Kazakhstan is committed to the spirit and letter of the agreements on strategic armaments concluded at the level of the CIS heads of state and advocates scrupulous compliance with the provisions of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), Kazakh Defence Minister Sagadat Nurmagambetov told Steven Steiner, the U.S. representative in the special commission to monitor compliance with the START treaty, today.

The top-ranking U.S. diplomat arrived in Alma-Ata for a protocol meeting to acquaint himself with the Kazakh leaders' position on issues related to the reduction and elimination of strategic nuclear armaments that are deployed on the republic's territory.

A spokesman in the Kazakh Defence Ministry's press service told ITAR-TASS by telephone that the sides achieved mutual understanding on all aspects of the problems discussed.

U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan William Courtney attended the meeting.

'Mixed Feelings' Over Proposed CW Convention

PM0109113592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Aug 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 4

[Viktor Litovkin report: "Moscow Votes for Chemical Weapons Convention Despite Not Agreeing With Everything in It"]

[Text] The final meeting of experts discussing the final version of a global convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling, and utilization of chemical weapons and their destruction has begun in Geneva under the auspices of the Conference on Disarmament. Representatives of 45 of the world's states, including Russia, are participating.

What attitude do Russian experts take toward the document submitted for discussion? Judging by their reactions, they have mixed feelings.

Academician Anatoliy Kuntsevich, chairman of the Committee on Statutory Problems of Chemical and Biological Weapons under the Russian president, said in an interview with IZVESTIYA's military correspondent:

"Russian will undoubtedly sign the convention; it cannot do otherwise. At every stage of its elaboration and coordination—and it has been a long and detailed process—we have stated, and continue to state, that we are prepared to be an original and definite party to it. And, moreover, since Russia possesses the largest stockpiles of chemical weapons, a powerful chemical industry, and enormous scientific, technological, and technical potential in this field, it is claiming permanent membership of the Convention Executive Committee headquartered in the Hague."

At the same time, in the Statutory Committee chairman's words, Russian experts in no way idealize the work done on the text of the convention. What are the problems here?

In the academician's view, the problem is that that version of the convention that has been worked out does not encompass a whole number of fundamental questions. These include defects in detailing the provisions on the nondevelopment of chemical weapons. This term is absent from the convention's title, and there is not a hint in the text, either, of how this process is to be monitored.

The requirements relating to the limitation of the utilization of herbicides and toxins when suppressing mass unrest and other issues are phrased in incomprehensible terms, too. But the main thing is that Russia also has concerns of its own.

First and foremost there is the financial burden linked with international inspections at chemical weapons production, storage, and destruction facilities. The final version of the convention prescribes that all expenditure related to inspections be borne by the state destroying the weapons in question. And the total of future payments for Russian runs to $50 million a year, which is virtually equal to half of all its expenditure on the program for the destruction of toxins and is essentially more than it can afford.

The original versions incorporated the idea that all 60 countries signing the convention would pay a proportion of the cost of inspections in line with the UN scale of membership contributions, under which the total would have been $5 million—still a considerable sum for the Russian budget but nevertheless one that appeared acceptable. The present figures, unfortunately, are simply unaffordable.

The problem is not that we are reluctant to pay, Academician Kuntsevich says. We have to be realists—the crisis makes it impossible. And the convention cannot become a piece of paper which we sign but don't fulfill.

What is the way out of the situation? Russia is working on several options: a return to the formula of proportional participation by all the countries, the creation of external [vnekonventsionalnyy] systems to provide the country with financial support for providing the wherewithal for monitoring activity, the creation of international funds, which could have an international governing body...

Anatoliy Kuntsevich said that Western countries understand Russia's financial concerns, and possibly inspections will be partially funded from the funds the United States makes available to it for the destruction of chemical weapons.

But there is one other question worrying our specialists. In the text of the Convention as currently worded Russia does not like the formula demanding the complete elimination of chemical weapon production facilities.

At various times chemical weapons in Russia were produced at Berezniki, Chapayevsk, Dzerzhinsk in Gorkiy Oblast, Novocheboksarsk, and Volgograd. There are major combines there with shops that used to produce toxins and load them into artillery shells and aircraft bombs.

The weapons were manufactured by highly skilled experts operating efficient and reliable systems. In Kuntsevich's words, throughout the period up to 1987, when we ceased production of toxins, there was not the tiniest accident or incident at any of these places.

Now that there is an insistent need for the destruction of chemical weapons, the Convention authorizes the utilization for this purpose of the facilities that produced them, together with their personnel and safety systems. This will cut costs and increase the reliability of the work, which will be carried out by highly experienced professionals—in itself an additional guarantee of reliability.

After the weapons have been destroyed, the specialist equipment has to be eliminated, of course. But the workshops could be switched to the production of civilian output and goods for the national economy—they could be converted. The convention's requirements that the plants be eliminated, right down to demolishing the walls, are irrational and simply ruinous economically.

"We believe," Academician Kuntsevich said, "that all these questions can be resolved within the framework of the preparatory committees' work. We have no political alternative to the convention, and there are financial difficulties that we hope to resolve. The convention must be signed, and we will do this without fail."

According to experts, the entry into force of the global convention on the destruction of chemical weapons can be expected in 1995.

Delegate Addresses Helsinki Security Conference

LD2908053192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1225 GMT 28 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Arkadiy Prisyazhnyy]

[Excerpts] Helsinki, 28 Aug—Civil and ethnic wars in the Balkans and certain republics of the former Soviet Union, which have accompanied the break-up of the socialist system, must not be allowed to spread to the Baltic region. The preservation of peace here is the common concern of all Baltic Sea states. This was stressed at the three-day international conference on security in the region which ended today. [passage omitted]

The Russian delegation, headed by Petr Barabolya, chairman of the International Committee for Peace, Disarmament, and Ecological Safety at Sea and on the Ocean, informed the conference about measures taken by the country's leadership to reduce Russia's military presence in the Baltic. For example, 21 warships were taken out of service there in 1991. This year the fleet will be reduced by a further 26 combat units. These include the missile cruiser Groznyy and two submarines, one of which carries cruise missiles. Six submarines of the Golf class, with nuclear missiles on board, have already been taken out of combat service. All in all Russia will have only half as many warships in the Baltic as the Soviet Union had there.

For Russia one of the most acute issues in this region is the withdrawal of forces from the Baltic countries, P. Barabolya noted. He declared that the committee he heads believes that all Russian forces must be withdrawn from there. However, the timetable that the leaders of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia are insisting on is unrealistic for economic reasons.

Demands for the withdrawal of Russian soldiers while there are no proper facilities or housing for them at home could brutalize the units stationed there and make them uncontrollable. Given the large Russian-speaking community in those republics this could lead to an explosion, to a civil war. Excessive haste and injudicious and ill-considered demands can only upset peace and security in the Baltic region, said P. Barabolya. [passage omitted]

Nuclear Power Stations To Link in September

WS0209060492 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1521 GMT 25 Aug 92

["Security Chain: Finland-Russia-Lithuania"—ELTA NEWS BULLETIN headline; from ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 64]

[Text] Finnish specialists set to work on creating a system of special direct communication which will connect nuclear power stations of the Kola Peninsula, Leningrad and Ignalina with the centre for radiation protection in Finland. The system will also comprise the Murmansk port where Russian nuclear vessels are based. This system will make it possible to obtain detailed information on the state of nuclear objects in Russia and Lithuania and an emergency situation in them. The new system is to be put into operation this September. All the Nordic countries, including Germany will be provided with the information.

Yeltsin Supports International Space Cooperation

LD0209085192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1838 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Barsukov]

[Excerpt] Washington, 1 Sep—Russia favors the dynamic development of international cooperation in space research through mutually beneficial and equal partnership, says a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin circulated at the World Space Congress that is taking place here. The forum is being attended by some 5,000 scientists, engineers, and participants in space flights from over 60 countries, including Russia.

"The history of space," B. Yeltsin stressed in his message, "comprises only three and one-half decades. But so much has been achieved in that time that one may rightly speak of our civilization's transition to a new era, the space era, and of its evolution. Mankind has found a hitherto unknown, cosmic dimension. The decisive contribution to this extremely important matter was made by the leading space powers—Russia and the United States." The president noted that Russian scientists intend to actively participate in the activities of the specialized international agencies engaged in space research. Such cooperation, the message says, "may already in the foreseeable future find a real embodiment in the creation of international space stations, systems for observing the ecological state of the Earth, space complexes for preparing promising materials and biopreparations, and basic research about the solar system and the universe." [passage omitted]

Armenia, Azerbaijan To Sign Cease-Fire 3 Sep

LD0309065892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0545 GMT 3 Sep 92

[By Kaztag correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 3 September—Today, representatives of the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, in the presence of representatives of Kazakhstan, will sign a protocol on the cessation of military operations between the two Caucasus republics at 1500 Moscow time. This is set out in a statement made today by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan.

Nursultan Nazarbayev assesses such an important and long awaited event as "the first, most difficult step, opening up the path to a peaceful settlement to the drawn out conflict. The practical implementation of the accords reached at the meeting of foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Kazakhstan on 27 August in Alma-Ata has started."

Welcoming the decision of Presidents Abulfaz Elchibey and Levon Ter-Petrosyan, "who have been able to raise themselves above emotions and the developments of the past for the sake of the higher interests of the Azerbaijan and Armenian peoples," the Kazakhstan leader expressed sincere gratitude to them for the patience and persistence manifested by them in the quest for mutually acceptable solutions. Nursultan Nazarbayev thinks that now it is important to strengthen what is still a fragile peace and immediately set about creating the mechanisms and instruments to monitor observance of the conditions regarding the cessation of military operations.

In his statement, Nursultan Nazarbayev proposed "urgently holding a session of the tripartite working group for the purpose of drawing up the relevant documents for the meeting of the presidents of the three states, which may take place in the capital of Kazakhstan.

CIS Defense Ministers Begin Meeting in Moscow

Agenda Detailed

LD0209130692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1002 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS military observer Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Sep—Three packages of draft agreements will be discussed by the heads of the military departments of the Commonwealth countries at a session of the Council of CIS Defense Ministers opening on 3 September at the headquarters of the Chief Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

As Lieutenant General Leonid Ivashov, secretary of the Council of CIS Defense Ministers, explained today in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, the first package comprises the draft agreements that are proposed for submission to the Council of Heads of State for examination on 26 September in Bishkek: on the blueprint for the collective military security of the states of the Commonwealth, on the nuclear strategy of the CIS, on the composition of the strategic forces and the procedure for managing them, and on the regulations concerning the Chief Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

In the second package are the draft documents that the CIS Council of Defense Ministers have to decide on. These include the agreements on the organization of liaison between chief commands and the administration bodies of the armed forces of the states of the Commonwealth, on the procedure for the transfer of servicemen of the armed forces of the former USSR for further performance of military service in the armed forces of independent states, and on enhancing the reliability of air traffic control, taking into account the socioeconomic conditions of CIS countries.

The third package will be composed of documents that are planned to be proposed to the Council of Heads of State and the Council of Heads of Government for examination at their next session.

Parallel with the session of the Council of Defense Ministers, work will be carried out by experts on two drafts: on the rules for flights by warplanes, and on supplying them with navigation information.

The heads of military departments do not plan to discuss the situation in the "hot spots" of the Commonwealth, but some aspects of this problem may be touched upon in the speech by Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, the commander in chief of the Joint Armed Forces of the CIS, who will inform his colleagues of the work of the Chief Command and the results of his recent trip to Tajikistan.

The success of the coming discussions is problematic. According to preliminary reports, there are substantial differences on the positions of the military leadership of some states of the CIS on the first, most important package of documents.

With regard to the participants at tomorrow's session, according to the report by Lt. Gen. Ivashov, Russia, Azerbaijan, and Ukraine will be represented by the first deputy or deputy ministers of defense, and Moldova by a permanent envoy. The Georgian deputy defense minister will take part in the session as an observer. The arrival of a Turkmen military delegation in Moscow is in question. The military departments of the other countries of the CIS will, judging by everything, be represented at the minister level.

Armenia, Moldova Not Present

LD0309082192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0747 GMT 3 Sep 92

[By military writer Andrey Naryzhkin]

[Text] Moscow September 3 TASS—A regular meeting of the CIS Defence Ministers' Council began at the main command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces here on

Thursday [3 September]. It is being attended by representatives from all the CIS countries, except Armenian Defence Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan and representative for military affairs of Moldova in Russia Valeriy Pasat, who are expected to join the meeting later in the day.

The meeting was opened by Commander in Chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov. Interviewed by journalists before the meeting, he noted the development of integrational processes within the Commonwealth of Independent States. Marshal Shaposhnikov stressed that the most difficult problem to be discussed by the meeting is that of the CIS strategic forces.

It is planned to discuss three packages of draft agreements. TASS was told by Secretary of the Defence Ministers Council Lieutenant General Leonid Ivashov that it consists of draft agreements, which are to be submitted to the heads of state council, scheduled to meet in Bishkek on September 26, including documents on the concept of CIS collective security, on CIS nuclear strategy, on the composition of the strategic forces and their direction, as well as a draft status of the Supreme Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

The defence ministers do not plan to discuss the situation in "hot spots" of the Commonwealth, but some aspects of this problem will be raised in the statement by Commander in Chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, who will inform his colleagues on the work of the Supreme Command and the results of his recent visit to Tajikistan.

The meeting will last two days. It is expected to close on September 4.

Ministers Approve Agenda in Full

LD0309092292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0905 GMT 3 Sep 92

[By correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow September 3 TASS—The Council of Defence Ministers of the Commonwealth approved in full the agenda proposed by the main command of the CIS Armed Forces, but changed the order of priority of several items.

It was decided on Thursday [3 September] that experts should first work on the draft agreements concerning the status, composition and management of strategic forces. The ministers will discuss the issue on Friday.

The agenda consists of three packages of agreements. The first and the major one contains documents to be discussed by CIS heads of state in Bishkek on September 26. The second package will be agreed upon by defence ministers. The third one includes legal acts which the ministers plan to include into the agenda of the next after Bishkek CIS summit.

Shaposhnikov: No Consensus on Issues

LD0309091592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0848 GMT 3 Sep 92

[By Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow September 3 ITAR-TASS—The most important and controversial items, from the point of view of their coordination, on the agenda of a meeting of defence ministers of the Commonwealth that opened on Thursday [3 September] in Moscow are: the draft agreements on the concept of collective and military security, on the nuclear strategy of the CIS, on the composition of strategic forces and the procedure for guiding them, commander-in-chief of the CIS Armed Forces Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov said today.

The air marshal told journalists that a consensus on these matters has not been found yet. For example, Ukraine insists on the right to exercise administrative control over strategic forces located on its territory. Kazakhstan, for its part, wants strategic forces to remain under the chief command of the CIS Armed Forces.

Shaposhnikov also said that the position of Russia and Belarus was different. Belarus agreed to transfer part of the strategic rocket forces under the jurisdiction of Russia. As long as nuclear weapons remain deployed on the territory of four CIS countries it is necessary to strictly abide by the documents that were passed at summit meetings of the CIS, Shaposhnikov declared.

Strategic Forces 'Most Difficult'

OW0309110692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1020 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Council of Defence Ministers of the CIS has gone into session in Moscow. Opening the session the Commander-in-Chief of the Joint Armed Forces Marshal Shaposhnikov voiced hope that the current tendency to integration in the community will promote a calm and well-weighed settlement of all questions submitted for discussion. All member-countries are present. Georgia has sent its observer.

The council is to discuss three packages of documents related to the concept of collective security and the nuclear doctrine.

The marshal told IF [INTERFAX] that the issue of strategic forces and their command will be the most difficult one. Ukraine continues to hold a special approach to the issue. Russia and Belarus have made new proposals. Even though their latest proposal is an attempt to combine all proposals, the marshal believes that it also violates existing agreements.

Speaking of the collective security concept the marshal said that the involvement of the Army in settling

regional problems is implied. However, this is such a delicate and complicated matter that it is too early to speak of it.

The Ukrainian Deputy Defence Minister Ivan Bezhan agrees that the question of strategic forces will be the most disputed. He said that the draft document submitted by Marshal Shaposhnikov does not take into account the realities of the day or the stand of Ukraine. Kiev insists on administrative subordination of the strategic force that remains in its territory which is resolutely resisted by the joint command of the armed forces. General Bezhan doubts that the council will manage to reach any compromise on the issue.

Shaposhnikov Urges Agreement on Defense Issues

LD0309131192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Interview with Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Armed Forces, by I. Minayev in Moscow on 3 September—recorded]

[Text] [Minayev] The military ministers met in Moscow to agree their positions on the eve of the heads' of states meeting in Bishkek. Under discussion are the concept of collective security and a nuclear strategy. It is imagined that the situation of the High Command of the Commonwealth Joint Armed Forces will also give rise to an animated debate.

You have talked about working out a concept of collective security? Does this envisage more active Army involvement in resolving and settling regional conflicts?

[Shaposhnikov] It does, of course, envisage a great many complications. First, it means that there has to be the agreement of the conflict sides to the introduction of peacekeeping forces. Then, the states that are involved in collective security have to agree to the use of their armed forces in a specific region—and other issues. Take Tajikistan, where the situation is very complicated and military observers are there, around 30 of them from the CIS states, and yet at present the introduction of peacekeeping forces is not an issue, although we will put our heads together today to work out a proposal on this to put to the heads of state.

[Minayev] Also a contentious issue is the procedure for managing the strategic forces. Ukraine wants to manage the strategic forces on its territory itself. Belarus is prepared to transfer them to Russian jurisdiction and Kazakhstan favors their being managed by the Joint Armed Forces High Command. Will the military ministers be able to reach agreement?

[Shaposhnikov] The CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command will of course make every effort for there to be little divergence in the defense area.

[Minayev] The Council of Defense Ministers of the Commonwealth States continues its work on 4 September.

Joint Armed Forces Command Starts Operating

PM0309083592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Sep 92 p 1

[Report from CIS Joint Armed Forces Main Command Public Information Center: "CIS Joint Armed Forces Main Command Formed"]

[Text] The formation of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Main Command has been completed in accord with the Agreement "On the Organization of the Activity of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Main Command for the Transitional Period" adopted by Commonwealth heads of state in Moscow 6 July 1992. The Main Command began executing the tasks vested in it as of 1 September. The basic tasks are concentrated in four areas. The first concerns the unified control and centralized command of the Strategic Forces, the improvement of their structures, and the maintenance of combat readiness at the requisite level in the interests of the CIS. The second concerns the coordination of Commonwealth states' efforts in ensuring collective security, reforming the Armed Forces, and drawing up basic doctrinal tenets. The third involves the implementation of prompt and coordinated measures to maintain peace in the Commonwealth and prevent local conflicts on the external borders. The fourth area involves drafting proposals and recommendations on implementing an agreed Commonwealth military policy for the CIS Council of Heads of State and the Collective Security Council.

The Main Command is continuing work on integrating the defense efforts of CIS states.

Vorontsov, Baltic Envoys on Russian Withdrawal

Envoys Ask UN Help

WS0209130192 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1425 GMT 1 Sep 92

["The Reluctance of Russia To Pull Out Its Troops"—ELTA NEWS BULLETIN headline; from ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 69]

[Text] 1 September 1992—The ambassadors of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to the United Nations handed in to the U.N. Secretary General a petition to the effect that the problem of the complete withdrawal of the foreign armed forces from the territory of the Baltic States should be included in the agenda of the 47th session of the General Assembly of the U.N.

The three ambassadors met with the Russian ambassador to the U.N. Yuliy Vorontsov and assured him that by raising the issue of the troops' withdrawal they are not seeking for a confrontation with Russia. Ambassador Vorontsov maintained that this problem ought to be solved at a summit of the leaders of Russia and the Baltic

States. He said he was surprised the Baltic States perceived a threat to peace and security in the Russian troops' reluctance to leave their territory. The Lithuanian ambassador to the U.N. Anicetas Simutis pointed out that the protracted and persistent presence of the Russian Armed Forces in Lithuania obstructs the process of restoration of its economy and frightens away potential investors. Present also at the meeting, the Russian extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador and Minister Sergey Ordzhonikidze warned the Baltic ambassadors that the Russian delegation at the U.N. had been authorized by the Russian parliament to raise the issue of the violation of human rights with regard to the Russian minority in the Baltic States.

Vorontsov: Only Practical Problems Left

OW0109112092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 0945 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Lithuanian mission to the United Nations, the ambassadors of the three Baltic states met the Russian representative at the organization to assure him that though their countries demand the complete withdrawal of the Russian army they do not want any confrontation with Russia.

The Russian ambassador Yuliy Vorontsov was surprised that such an issue as the immediate and complete withdrawal of the Russian Army is raised at the United Nations. He said Russia has agreed to pull out and thus there are no political differences, only practical problems related to the withdrawal. He believes that practical questions should be settled by the leaders of Russia and the Baltic states.

According to the Lithuanian mission, Mr. Vorontsov conducted the discussion in a polite and correct form and the hour and a half meeting took place in a normal atmosphere.

As BF [BALTFAX] has reported, the ambassadors of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia handed a request to the UN leader to discuss the withdrawal at the 47th session of the General Assembly.

Ministry Aide: Baltic Withdrawal Possible in '93

PM0209131692 Helsinki HUFVUDSTADSBLADET in Swedish 1 Sep 92 p 9

[FINSKA NOTISBYRAN report: "Russian Troops Out of the Baltic Region in 1993"]

[Excerpt] Moscow—Russia is prepared to withdraw its troops from the Baltic region as early as next year, one of the key figures in the Russian Government's negotiations with the three Baltic countries has said.

In the past Moscow had demanded that the former Soviet Armed Forces in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania should be allowed to stay until the end of 1994. Oleg Muradyan, head of the Foreign Ministry's department for Baltic questions, told the BALTFAX news agency yesterday that next week President Boris Yeltsin will propose to Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis that Russian troops should leave Lithuania during 1993.

He described his remarks as "informal information," but added that an agreement between Russia and Lithuania could be signed as early as the meeting between Yeltsin and Landsbergis in Moscow on 8 September.

"Such an agreement would set a precedent in the negotiations with Estonia and Latvia, too," he said. [passage omitted]

Baltic Leaders To Meet 11 Sep in Tallinn

OW0209185492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1646 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A meeting of the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian heads of state will be held September 11 in Tallinn. The Estonian Prime Minister's aid Andi Meister informed BALTFAX of the meeting.

Tiit Vahi, Ivars Godmanis and Aleksandras Abisala intend to discuss strengthening Baltic cooperation, with particular attention to organizations with mutual accounts, noncommercial operations, customs and border control and visa regulations. Problems in relations with Russia and other CIS countries will also be discussed.

Foreign Minister Receives U.S. Ambassador

LD0209155192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1424 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, 2 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev received U.S. Ambassador Robert Strauss today at the latter's request. The department of information and press of the Russian Foreign Ministry reported that during their conversation they discussed the current agenda of the Russian-American dialogue, including the upcoming meeting of Andrey Kozyrev with Lawrence Eagleburger, the acting U.S. secretary of state, which is to take place in September. It is planned that the meeting will be mainly focused on working on an agreement on the further reduction of strategic offensive arms.

IZVESTIYA Examines U.S. Uranium Deal Benefits

PM0209145192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Aleksey Portanskiy: "United States Prepared To Buy Nuclear Bomb Uranium From Russia for Its Nuclear Power Stations"]

[Text] On 31 August U.S. President G. Bush announced that agreement had been reached in principle with Russia that the uranium from the nuclear armaments that are being destroyed can only be used for peaceful purposes.

As is known, this year Russia and the United States agreed on a substantial reduction of their nuclear arsenals. But the agreements that were reached can be deemed effective only if the destruction and reprocessing of all the components of the nuclear weapons, including the fissile material, are guaranteed.

A written statement by the U.S. President, put out by the White House, says that the sides "have agreed to devise measures to fully guarantee nonproliferation, physical security, accounting, and monitoring, and also observance of ecological standards" in respect of enriched uranium.

According to the working document initialed by both sides last week, the United States and Russia plan to conclude a contract within a year for the U.S. Energy Department to purchase enriched uranium from Russian nuclear armaments, which, after reprocessing, will be used in U.S. civil nuclear reactors. The document also envisages cooperation between the two sides in enhancing nuclear reactor safety in Russia. Part of the money Russia makes from the sale of the uranium will be spent on this. By and large, the profit from future deals should assist the economic reforms in Russia, President Bush's statement also says.

The agreement that has been reached provides a working framework; more work has to be done on it to prepare it for official signing, Konstantin Kuranov, adviser to the Russian Federation atomic energy minister, said in conversation with me. It used to take years to prepare such agreements, but now the demand for currency and the desire to strengthen our positions in the U.S. market call for quite a different timeframe.

As far as Russia is concerned the aforementioned agreement with the Americans will have not only the obvious political and military significance. As is known, despite our enormous natural stocks of uranium, Russia's quota on the world uranium market is only 5 percent. The agreement that is being devised will enable Russia to dispose of uranium in the U.S. market outside of its existing quota and will not affect our relations with other partners in the world market.

We have inherited from the overblown military potential of the former Soviet Union significant natural uranium enrichment capacities, which constitute 45 percent of world capacity. Moreover, the technical standard of our enterprises is much higher than the American. According to authoritative estimates, we are 10 years ahead. This means that U.S. industry may not be able to handle the reprocessing of highly enriched weapons-grade uranium into fuel for civilian needs, where the degree of enrichment is only a fraction of that. The future agreement offers the possibility of the considerable use of our capacities for the manufacture of slightly enriched uranium, which will then be exported to the United States.

The U.S. side estimates that the future contract will envisage the purchase of around 500 tonnes of uranium. In the first five years approximately 10 tonnes of enriched uranium are to be reprocessed annually into slightly enriched uranium; this figure could rise to 30 tonnes per year.

Yeltsin To Visit China, India

LD0209194792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1152 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 2 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin will visit China on an official visit at the invitation of Chairman of the Chinese People's Republic Yang Shangkun in the middle of December.

In January of 1993 the Russian president will go to India on an official visit at the invitation of Prime Minister of India P.V. Narasimha Rao.

It was officially announced here today.

Settlement Talks on Abkhazia Begin in Moscow

OW0309110192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1021 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpt] Talks on a settlement in Abkhazia are beginning in Moscow. They are attended by President Boris Yeltsin, the chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze, the chairman of the Abkhaz parliament Vladislav Ardzinba and representatives of republics and regions of the Northern Caucasus.

On Wednesday [2 September] night the Russian Foreign Ministry summed up the proposals of Georgia and Abkhazia and worked out a comprehensive document suggesting a cease-fire in the conflict zone, the withdrawal of all Georgian forces from the autonomous republic and the sending of a peace-making force like in South Ossetia.

However, the proposed withdrawal reportedly does not suit Tbilisi because in this case only Abkhaz guards will remain there. This was the most heatedly-debated issue at the consultations of experts. It is possible that it might foil the negotiations.

Besides, Georgia insists on the dissolution of the Abkhaz parliament and new elections which is stubbornly resisted by the Abkhaz side which wants the word "autonomous" to be dropped from its name. Neither is the Abkhaz leadership satisfied with the fact that the final document should be signed only by Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze.

The information department of the Russian Foreign Ministry has informed IF [INTERFAX] that an embargo has been imposed till the end of the talks about the progress at them under a mutual understanding of the sides. [passage omitted]

Russian, Georgian Foreign Ministers Meet

OW0209131392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1250 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his Georgian counterpart Aleksandr Chikvaidze had a working meeting in Moscow on Wednesday [2 September] in the framework of preparations for Thursday's talks on the ways to settle the conflict in Abkhazia. The two men considered a draft document to be submitted to the leaders of Russia, Georgia and Abkhazia.

As IF [INTERFAX]'s correspondent learned at Russia's Foreign Ministry, work on the draft will be continued after A. Kozyrev's meeting today with Vladislav Ardzinba, chairman of Abkhazia's parliament, who arrived in Moscow on Wednesday.

Government Issues Warning on Fighting

PM0209201092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Sep 92 First Edition p 7

["Russian Government Statement"—headline]

[Text] According to reports received, Georgian military formations have launched combat operations involving the use of tanks and other heavy equipment in the region of Sukhumi and Gagra. Residential districts and Russian military subunits temporarily stationed in Abkhazia, which observe strict neutrality, have come under fire. The blood of the civilian population is again being shed. The lives of Russian citizens in the conflict zone have been put in jeopardy. All this deserves the harshest condemnation, particularly as it is taking place despite the accord reached on a cease-fire from 31 August.

We resolutely warn the initiators of such acts of their consequences.

The Russian Government issues an urgent appeal to the Georgian State Council and all parties to the conflict to do all within their power to stop further bloodshed and end hostilities. That would make a signal contribution to the start of the process of talks and the achievement of accords aimed at a peace settlement at the meeting in Moscow on 3 September.

Commission Denies Russians Fighting

LD0209133792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1315 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 2 TASS—A joint Russian-Georgian commission denied Georgian statement that Russian troops stationed in Sukhumi are fighting on the Abkhazian side, TASS learned on Wednesday [2 September] from the Russian Defence Ministry.

The commission, headed by deputy commander of the Transcaucasian Group of Troops A. Murylev from the Russian side and by adviser to chairman of the State Council Levan Sherashenidze from the Georgian side, proved that the statement was incorrect, according to the press centre of the ministry.

No attacks on Russian troops in Abkhazia were registered on Wednesday, although the general situation remains complicated there. The press centre said.

Since early morning on September 1 Georgian units were firing on positions of Abkhazian guardsmen in Sukhumi from tanks, artillery and firearms. The clash took place near a Russian military laboratory and several shells exploded on its territory. Luckily, no one was hurt. Combat activities ceased in the afternoon.

No clashes were reported in Gagra. The conflicting sides were regrouping forces there.

Families of the Russian military are being evacuated from Abkhazia by three Il-76 planes. 125 people and 65 tonnes of cargoes have been already taken out of the region, according to the press centre.

Proposals for Japan Visit Focus on Economic Aid

OW0309042692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0323 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 3 KYODO—Most draft Russian proposals for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's September 13-16 visit to Japan show a preoccupation with economic assistance rather than resolving a long-standing bilateral territorial dispute, KYODO NEWS SERVICE learned Thursday [3 September].

Of 17 proposals on a list, a copy of which was made available to KYODO, 10 focus on economic assistance, something Japan is trying to avoid until the two countries can resolve a territorial dispute over a group of four islands to Japan's north which the Soviet Union seized at the end of World War II.

The islands, known in Japan as the Northern Territories, are Kunashiri, Shikotan, Etorofu, and the Habomai islets.

Japan has repeatedly said it will not extend substantive economic assistance to Russia until the territorial issue is resolved. The differences in expectations make it likely the only agreements signed during the Yeltsin visit will be mainly noneconomic ones already agreed upon, according to Japanese sources.

These include agreements on space cooperation, the prevention of accidents at sea involving military ships and planes of both countries, and the establishment of consulates in Niigata and Khabarovsk.

The economic agreements Russia is proposing cover investment protection, assistance to foster small- and medium-enterprises in the Russian Far East, and provision of a billion yen in financing from the Export-Import Bank of Japan.

Japanese and Russian officials are holding working-level discussions on the details of these agreements during Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe's current visit to Moscow.

Japanese sources said the Russian proposals display deficiencies and a lack of preparation.

A plan for the signing during the Yeltsin visit of an agreement on Export-Import Bank of Japan financing was at one stage considered certain, but informed sources say it contains many unresolved issues.

Watanabe and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will hold a second meeting on Thursday to prepare for the Yeltsin visit.

The Japanese foreign minister met Yeltsin on Wednesday.

Official Stressed Aid Before Islands

OW0209153392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1508 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Moscow, Sept. 2 KYODO—Japan and Russia should agree on stepped-up economic cooperation rather than on a bilateral territorial dispute when President Boris Yeltsin visits Japan later this month, a Russian Government official said Wednesday [2 September].

Viktor Ilyushin, head of the secretariat of the president, told KYODO NEWS SERVICE it would do no good to view Yeltsin's visit to Japan on September 13-16 from the standpoint of the dispute over the four islands off northeastern Japan.

He said it is important to reach an agreement on further economic cooperation at a meeting between Yeltsin and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. [passage omitted]

Ilyushin touched on the need to enhance economic cooperation on a national level, saying, "Russian people will take a different view of the territorial dispute if they become better off" as a result of an influx of capital from the Japanese private sector.

His remarks may be taken to indicate that establishing a wide-ranging cooperative relationship mainly through Japanese economic aid to Russia will eventually work in favor of a settlement of the territorial issue, political pundits said.

Ilyushin said, "You cannot separate economic cooperation from the territorial issue. But it is not appropriate to link the two issues closely."

He also said Moscow will be satisfied with a little progress, saying the presidential visit to Japan could be called a success if bilateral relations move even half a step toward improvement.

Asked about whether Russian opinion is split over the return of the four islands, Ilyushin said, "It is regrettable you have got that impression. As the president said, he currently has 12 different approaches to settling the territorial dispute and we are considering various proposals. The president himself will disclose the final proposal in Tokyo."

Japan's Watanabe Hints at 'Some' Aid

OW0309102892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1010 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 3 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanebe indicated Thursday [3 September] that Japan and Russia will agree to some economic aid packages for Moscow when Russian President Boris Yeltsin visits Japan later this month.

Speaking to reporters at the close of his meetings with Russian officials, Watanabe said he would like to see implementation of the Export-Import Bank of Japan's promise to provide 100 million dollars in emergency humanitarian aid, as well as the Japanese Government's pledge of 700 million dollars in trade insurance for Russian imports from Japan of equipment for development of natural gas and oil deposits.

Watanabe said the question of a visit to Russia by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will be considered later after seeing the results of Yeltsin's visit to Japan on September 13-16.

Responding to Yeltsin's criticism of Tokyo's "pressure" on Russia to return four disputed islands off Hokkaido, Watanabe said Japan has "toned down" its demands for the immediate return of all the islands.

The islands, which are Etorofu, Shikotan, Kunashiri, and the Habomai group of islets, were seized by the former Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

Watanabe noted that Japan has been demanding the return of the islands over the past 30 or 40 years, and not only since Yeltsin came to power.

Watanabe said criticism that Japan is taking advantage of Russia's economic hardships is a "misunderstanding."

About the trip to Russia, Watanabe said he thought he clearly expressed Japanese thinking on the matter to the Russian President, adding that the visit was better than not coming at all.

Economics Minister Views G-7 Accords

LD0209170892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1624 GMT 2 Sep 91

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Sep—The Russian Government treats very seriously the implementation of economic accords with the "G-7" states, Russia's Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev said at a meeting today with economic advisers of the embassies of leading Western countries. In the minister's words, during the implementation of economic reforms, great changes in strategy and tactics have taken place in Russia in recent months. He said that the structural reorganization of the economy is one of the main areas of government activity at present.

Among such areas of priority, Andrey Nechayev listed the development of the fuel and energy sector, the tackling of food problems, the conversion of the defense industry, and the improvement of the country's infrastructure. The collapse of the USSR has put the problem of ports on the Baltic and Black Seas acutely on the agenda for Russia. The Republic is setting the task of creating a major transport ring.

The lack of domestic financial resources makes tackling tasks more difficult, and consequently the government would like to attract foreign investment. In the minister's view, the introduction in the country of a single ruble exchange rate is of major importance. However, the present ruble rate in no way reflects its real strength. In this connection, he voiced bewilderment over the position of the Central Bank of Russia, which has allowed such a sharp drop in the ruble rate recently.

Replying to a question regarding the possibility of abolishing fixed prices for fuels, Andrey Nechayev noted that this problem is now acquiring a political, rather than economic significance. In his words, a draft decision has been drawn up according to which it is planned to impart "greater freedom to fuel prices."

Spokesman Supports London Plan for Yugoslavia

LD0209135492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1314 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By Sergey Staroselskiy and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow September 2 TASS—Russia believes that a mechanism for reaching a settlement in the Yugoslav crisis has been largely defined at the London conference, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembski told reporters on Wednesday [2 September].

This does not mean that the principles will be immediately implemented, but Russia supports them, Yastrzhembski said.

Moscow supports guarantees for the inviolability of external [borders] and a moratorium on changes in interrepublican borders in former Yugoslavia and denounces territorial changes achieved with force, he said.

Cantonization of Bosnia and Hercegovina would only impede a settlement, he said.

Asked about Russia's attitude towards a possible military intervention in Yugoslavia, the spokesman said that "there is even less justification than previously in discussing a hypothetical chance of a military intervention in Yugoslavia in the light of decisions passed in London and the chance given to the sides to get out of this bloody conflict in a dignified manner".

Official: 'Hope' for Settlement in Mideast Talks

LD0209131292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1245 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By Sergey Staroselskiy and Leonid Timofeev]

[Text] Moscow September 2 TASS—"Corrections made by the Israeli Government and positive signals from the Arabs give hope for a compromise settlement," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told a news briefing on Wednesday [2 September], commenting on the 6th round of bilateral Arab-Israeli talks.

However, the sides still differ on several cardinal issues. "We hope that the sides will continue movement towards each other during subsequent meetings. Russia, as a co-sponsor of the peace process, in close interaction with the American co-sponsor, is actively working towards ensuring favorable conditions for a convergence in the sides' position, and achieving practical results in all negotiating groups," Yastrzhembskiy said.

Priority should be given to promoting understanding between the sides and negotiating disputable issues, he said.

Israel's Shamir Visits To Discuss Cooperation

LD0209132992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1312 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow September 2 TASS—"The purpose of my private visit to Moscow is to get acquainted with the situation in the country and to look for ways to develop and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation between Israel and Russia," former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said during a meeting with Gennadiy Seleznev, PRAVDA's editor-in-chief, here today.

Seleznev told the Israeli ex-premier about PRAVDA's present-day activities, pointing out that "The newspaper is not the mouthpiece of any party, reflects the interests of left-wing forces and wishes to be a newspaper advocating civil concord".

Shamir pointed out Israel's interest in the development of cooperation with the Russian Federation, noting that good conditions to deepen cooperation exist. "Ten per cent of the Russian-speaking population in Israel will have a positive effect on bilateral relations," he said.

Touching upon matters concerning Jewish emigration from Russia, Shamir said that for Israel to prosper it is essential to concentrate the bulk of all Jewish people in his country. He voiced hope that the emigration process would develop on a voluntary basis without any pressure on Jews. Shamir is expected to meet Jews and representatives of the Russian authorities to study the matter.

The former Israeli prime minister said that he will also visit St. Petersburg, Kiev, and Minsk.

Afghan Ties To Continue Despite Kabul Evacuation

OW0209163392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1544 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, N. Golovin, V. Terekhov, and others; from "Diplomatic Panorama"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Ambassador to Afghanistan Y. Ostrovenko believes that with the evacuation of Russia's Embassy from Kabul Russia's relations with Afghanistan did not end; they'll continue to be maintained through the Russian Consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif. The embassy's conservation and the evacuation of its staff "presented no political action aimed against the present government of Afghanistan", he pointed out.

At his Wednesday's [2 September] press conference Ostrovenko said that everything has been done to prevent the embassy's premises from being looted after the evacuation. According to him, an agreement was reached with President Borhanoddin Rabbani that units belonging to the Islamic Unity party (the pro-Iranian grouping) would do their best to keep the building intact.

Besides, a contract was signed with a construction company in Kabul which undertakes to ensure the technical servicing of embassy buildings. There is hope that these agreements will be honoured, Ostrovenko said, since "in Afghanistan still there are many sincere friends of Russia, among the mojahedin too, who rendered assistance to embassy members.

With reference to the formerly Soviet prisoners of war he said it is believed that "there are several dozen of them". Some of them are held by field commanders, and the leaders of groupings are often unaware of their existence. All the formerly Soviet servicemen embraced Islam and are known only under their new names which hinders the efforts to spot them, he said. According to the Ambassador, recently preparations were made to free 2 formerly Soviet servicemen: one from Ukraine and the other from Turkmenistan. The search for them will continue through the Russian Consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif, and through Pakistan, with the help of international organizations.

In answer to DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] questions the Ambassador said embassy leaders built their work on the assumption that a war will start between Mojahedin groupings when the opposition comes to power. All embassy members evacuated recently had remained in Kabul at their own free will. Embassy members sincerely wanted to ensure transition from Russia's relations with Afghanistan under the Najibollah government to those under the rule of the Mojahedin.

Russia will not seek to establish the section of its interests at some of the embassies remaining in Kabul, Ostrovenko pointed out. "We have not severed diplomatic relations with Afghanistan, and therefore there is no need in mediation between us".

Burbulis Comments Further on Visit to Turkey

NC0209202092 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 30 Aug 92 p 14

[Text] The joint communique issued at the end of State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis' three-day visit to Turkey stressed that there are no problems between Turkey and Russia. This has been interpreted as an indication of a favorable era in the history of bilateral relations. Burbulis said that Russia wants to develop economic, trade, and cultural relations with Turkey. In fact, he said: "Russia regards Turkey with preference."

Burbulis replied to HURRIYET's questions before departing following his visit two days ago. He said:

Gigantic Steps in Economy

I am satisfied with the outcome of my visit. A protocol has been signed establishing a consultative mechanism, which will prepare the ground for President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel to hold talks on economic matters. We have reached a decision to appraise [degerlendirmek] oil resources and cooperate on matters related to oil. We have discussed the modernization of the existing oil pipelines and the possibility of laying a pipeline on the Caspian seabed.

Joint Ferry Services in the Black Sea

A decision has been reached to establish two joint companies, which will link the ports in the Black Sea and bring the peoples closer together in the region. One of these companies will be a transportation firm that will operate ferries between the Turkish and Russian ports in the Black Sea. The other company will repair Russia's ports in the Black Sea.

Old Investments Will Be Reactivated

The investments made during the former USSR era in the aluminum and petrochemical industry domains in Turkey will be reactivated. New cooperation will be established in these fields. We plan to cooperate with Turkey to convert our military industry into a civilian industry. Talks will be held during the next few days on the question of financing the projects. The question of double taxation and details of the loan agreements will also be discussed.

Turkey Regarded With Preference

Russia regards its relations with Turkey with preference. We are convinced that bilateral relations will form a basis for stability in the region.

UNESCO in the Black Sea Region

Why are Boris Yeltsin and Suleyman Demirel so similar? Why are they sympathetic toward each other? They represent the reformist forces in the region. The two peoples also maintain favorable relations toward each other. In fact, they feel close to each other because they share a similar culture. We believe that Turkish and Russian intellectuals must work together to further the common culture of the two countries. Istanbul is the main center of two important initiatives aimed at establishing the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Zone and the Black Sea Parliamentary Assembly. We must add an initiative to establish cultural solidarity among the peoples of the Black Sea region. Let us establish a micro UNESCO in the region.

500th Anniversary

Emperor Ivan III conveyed a letter to Sultan Bayezit III proposing the establishment of economic and trade relations in 1492. This was the first rapprochement between the two empires in the region. Bilateral relations began at the time of the Russian and Ottoman Empires. Let us assess this historic legacy and adopt a contemporary approach to draw up the framework of our relations for the next 500 years.

Economics Minister on Trade Meeting With Taiwan

OW0209105792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1008 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the first Russian-Taiwan conference on trade and investment, which has opened in Moscow today, Russian Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev said the convertibility and stabilization of the ruble remain one of the government's immediate objectives, the attainment of which, however, has been made more difficult by the substantial depreciation of the ruble as a result of "certain steps" taken by the Central Bank of Russia.

Answering an IF [INTERFAX] correspondent's question, Nechayev said very positively that the depreciation of the ruble will serve to increase the budget deficit but not to a very serious degree because the budget does take into account the balance on current foreign trade transactions, which at present is positive if the credits are ignored.

Nechayev described "direct foreign investment" as an important factor in the restructuring of the Russian economy. "We're through with huge foreign credits which are very difficult to pay back," he said.

Taiwan Business Delegation Arrives in Moscow

OW3108192792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1826 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The biggest Taiwanese delegation ever since the establishment of contacts with the CIS member-states has arrived in Moscow for a bilateral conference on trade and investment, opening on September 2. The delegation consists of representatives of government, business and scientific circles. The conference is held by the Economics Academy at the Russian government together with the Institute of Economic Studies of Taiwan with the participation of the Economics ministry. The conference will discuss economic reforms in Russia and the expansion of trading and economic ties between Taiwan and the CIS.

UN Official's News Briefing on Secretary's Visit

MK0209133992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Yuriy Leonov under the "Visit" general heading: "Nobody Doubts Russia's Greatness—So Says UN Deputy Secretary General for Political Questions Vladimir Petrovskiy"]

[Text] Vladimir Petrovskiy has returned to Russia to prepare for UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's first official visit to Moscow. Six months ago, Petrovskiy left his post as deputy foreign minister and went to New York to become deputy for political questions to the new United Nations Organization secretary general. In the months that followed he drafted a program report for the UN head, flew to Tripoli three times as Butrus Butrus-Ghali's special representative in a bid to persuade the Libyan leaders to fulfill the demands of UN resolutions, and, in conjunction with the EC leadership, organized

and conducted the unprecedented conference on Yugoslavia in London, which was loudly hailed in Europe as a diplomatic triumph (and this does not please Petrovskiy). Yesterday at the Foreign Ministry Press Center, he gave a press conference previewing the visit by Butrus Butrus-Ghali, which will take place between 4 and 7 September.

[Correspondent] How should we evaluate the secretary general's visit to Moscow? Does this visit signify that Russia's positions in the international community remain firm, despite domestic difficulties?

[Petrovskiy] Nobody is casting any doubt on Russia's positions in the United Nations, or indeed abroad in general. I only encounter doubts here, in Russia. Our country is a permanent member of the UN Security Council, and in this capacity it plays a key role in international policy, and this role will increase. Therefore, it is wholly natural to view the secretary general's visit to Russia as confirmation of the significance of Russia's position.

[Correspondent] Vladimir Fedorovich, what is the state of Russia's relations with the United Nations, for instance in the financial sphere, and where do the problems here lie?

[Petrovskiy] Actually, Russia does not have any serious problems with the United Nations in the financial sense. There are debtor-states. The overall debt of these states amounts to $2 billion. And the chief debtor is the United States, as, in line with a Congressional decision, the American contribution to the United Nations must not exceed 25 percent of the sum of other states' contributions. Whereas in Russia's case, it is not a matter of extinguishing a debt but merely of paying contributions regularly and on time. In general, the financial problem for the United Nations is a serious one. There is a danger that the United Nations may become a hostage to its own popularity: The organization may not have enough money for all the ambitious programs which it is undertaking. Ways of solving this problem are proposed in a report by the secretary general. Thus, for instance, peacekeeping operations could be financed in part by military budgets, and the involvement of private capital investment is being sought more actively. [Petrovskiy ends]

Telling journalists of the program for Butrus-Ghali's stay in Moscow, Vladimir Petrovskiy stressed that, apart from meetings with the Russian leadership (talks with President Yeltsin and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev), a whole series of events involving the public is envisaged. Noting the importance of personal contacts for international policy, Vladimir Petrovskiy expressed the hope that the second meeting between Butrus Butrus-Ghali and Boris Yeltsin (the first took place during a high-level UN Security Council session) will lead to the consolidation of contacts between the two leaders and relations between Russia and the United Nations.

Canada To Resume Wheat Deliveries

LD3008060392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0230 GMT 30 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentin Vasilets]

[Text] Ottawa, 30 Aug—On 31 August, the shipment of Canadian grain for Russia on vessels waiting in local ports will resume. The Canadian authorities imposed a ban on the dispatching of grain two weeks ago owing to a delay in payments. At the time 11 Russian vessels were in harbors on the Pacific Ocean coast and on the St. Lawrence River. According to data of the Canadian wheat board, Russia owed more than 100 million Canadian dollars. Last week part of the debt was cancelled, following which the authorities lifted the ban on loading three vessels—in Churchill (on the Hudson Bay) and in Vancouver on the Pacific Ocean.

Bob Rowil reported in Winnipeg that on 28 August, as a result of talks with the Russian side, the problem was settled. "They handed a substantial sum over to us and presented a plan for paying the remainder of the debt," the representative said. "As far as the forseeable future is concerned, things will go ahead as usual." He thereby stressed that the board intends to keep an attentive eye on the situation in order to be sure that Russia's plan for cancelling the debt is carried out.

According to the five-year agreement concluded in February, Canada is to sell Russia 5 million tonnes of grain annually.

The stopping of the shipment not only caused alarm in the purchasers, but also among the Canadian farmers, as well as among workers in the transport system, in particular, the dockers at the ports who were threatened with immediate redundancy. The wheat board stressed that Russia remains its best customer and it is interested in continuing cooperation, but at the same time it cannot agree to a delay in payments for an indefinite period.

Moscow-Ukraine Railway 'Completely Blocked'

LD0309051292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0346 GMT 3 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Shevel]

[Text] Moscow 3 September—The strike by Ukrainian railway men, which started on 2 September, has seriously complicated the situation on Russian railways. As reported to the ITAR-TASS correspondent at the service of the chief duty officer of the Ministry of Railways of the Russian Federation, the situation deteriorated even further last night. Freight train traffic on the Moscow-Ukraine railway is completely blocked. Only 50 percent of the freight transportation schedule is being carried out from southeastern Russia to the eastern oblasts of Ukraine. The railway men on the Donetsk, southern, and Dniester stretches of railway are continuing to work.

Foreign Ministry on Baltic Nations Relations

OW3108153392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1424 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, V. Terekhov, and others; from "Diplomatic Panorama"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Talks on the level of presidents are designed to give a new quality to the process of resolving complicated problems between Russia and the Baltic countries. As DP [Diplomatic Panorama] was told at Russia's Foreign Ministry, diplomats expect the upcoming top-level talks to lead to resolving the most crucial issues. They believe that participants in the talks will discuss the ways to secure compliance with international standards in the area of human rights in the Baltic countries, ensure legal rights for Russian servicemen for the time of their withdrawal, and observe the principle of inviolability of borders.

According to Russia's Foreign Ministry, the official stand of the Russian Federation is that the withdrawal of troops from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia will be concluded on condition of reaching agreements on a number of relevant issues and implementing them. This concerns 9 points included in the package of military issues submitted to participants in the August talks between the Foreign Ministers of Russia and Baltic countries.

As for the three other packages, there is no strict linkage between them and the military package, even though there is an interconnection, since they relate to measures which, taken together, make it possible to gain a breakthrough in relations between the parties concerned in the direction of normalizing them and making them healthier. The essence of Russian proposals lies in the intention to achieve such a breakthrough.

Members of Russia's Foreign Ministry resolutely distanced themselves from the attempts to accuse Russia of using pressure diplomacy. According to them, the fundamental stand of democratic Russia which paved the way for the Baltic countries' independence provides for giving up the threats to use military force and economic pressure.

According to experts, Western political circles realize the danger that will emerge if tensions in the Baltic region begin to aggravate. The Foreign Ministries of a number of countries are considering the possibility of dispatching CSCE observers to resolve the problem of human rights observance in the Baltic states.

Military Issues

Grachev on 'Irreversible' Changes in Military

PM0209112392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Sep 92 pp 1-2

[Interview with Army General P. Grachev, minister of defense, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "Changes in Army and Navy Are Irreversible"]

[Text] [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Comrade Army General, it has been several months since the president of the Russian Federation signed the decree on the creation of the Russian Defense Ministry and Armed Forces. What are the chief results of this, probably the most complex and crucial period in the formation of the new Russian Army?

[Grachev] The year 1992 was defined as the first stage in the formation of Russia's Armed Forces. Its chief goals were the creation of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry—the legal basis for the building and functioning of the Army and Navy—the elaboration of the concept of military building, and the resolution of certain other questions, without which all subsequent activity is inconceivable.

These goals have mainly been achieved during the past period. The creation of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry has practically been completed. The statute on it and its structure were approved not so long ago by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Could you speak briefly about the contents of these documents?...

[Grachev] Certainly. Thus, the statute defines that the Russian Federation Defense Ministry is a central organ of state management. It exercises leadership of Russia's Armed Forces and is responsible for their combat ability and their readiness to fulfill tasks in the armed defense of the Russian Federation. The Defense Ministry, its organs of management, and their officials are guided in their activity by the Russian Federation Constitution, existing legislation, presidential decrees, government acts, and the aforesaid statute.

The Defense Ministry has great responsibilities. They include implementing policy in the sphere of building the Armed Forces in accordance with decisions of top organs of state power and management; coordinating, financing, and monitoring work carried out in the interests of defense; placing orders and funding on a contract basis; research and development in the spheres of defense and the production and purchases of weapons and military hardware; realizing programs of cooperation with the Armed Forces of other states; implementing cadre policy in the Armed Forces by agreement with the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet committee in charge of defense questions; and much else besides, without which modern military activity is inconceivable.

The main responsibilities of the Defense Ministry's leadership personnel have also been defined. They are quite multifaceted. Generalizing them, I will say this: The ministry's leadership is obliged to know everything within the limits of its competence, to monitor all questions concerning the life and activity of the Russian Armed Forces, to govern subordinate structures firmly and skillfully, and thereby to ensure the steady fulfillment of the tasks entrusted to the ministry. These tasks were of paramount importance in elaborating the Russian Defense Ministry's structure. It has become more flexible and mobile, with the minimum necessary number of subdivisions.

Thus, the number of deputy ministers has been reduced to six, and each of them has his own range of responsibilities and the directorates, departments, and services necessary to fulfill them.

In addition to the traditional elements, new ones have also been introduced into the ministry's structure. For example, the directorates for military building and reforms, for the withdrawal of troops, and for the reduction of armed forces and strategic arms. A number of former directorates have been reduced and transformed with due regard for the changed tasks.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Obviously, structural changes are occurring not only in the Defense Ministry...

[Grachev] Of course. They have affected all the Armed Forces. But these changes are of a tactical nature, if I may say so, for the period through 1995. Their purpose is to ensure the reduction and reformation of troops and forces (which will happen chiefly during the second stage of the formation of the Russian Armed Forces), without at the same time upsetting either the balance of forces, or the present level of combat readiness, or the existing system of management. Subsequently, of course, more cardinal structural changes will take place.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Is the certification of officer cadres now getting under way among the same category of changes?

[Grachev] Indeed it is. What the Russian Army and Navy will be like tomorrow depends on the officers with whom they embark on this "tomorrow." Therefore the certification is a necessary step under present conditions to rid the officer corps of negligent, indifferent people, to rally it, to create an atmosphere of mutual exactingness and respect, and to activate efforts to build and strengthen the Russian Army.

It is no coincidence that the business and moral qualities of officers, their loyalty to their constitutional duty and to the country's laws, their attitude toward military service, their purposefulness in fulfilling their official duty, their level of professionalism, responsibility, and personal discipline, their ability to make the correct decisions in good time in a critical situation, and their

adherence to the policy of depoliticizing and departyizing the Army and Navy have been advanced as the main assessment criteria during the certification.

The Russian Army needs energetic, thinking, enterprising people who love it and their work and who do not curry favor with a particular chief. This is why I warn against turning the certification into a so-called purge, into a means of settling scores and planting in various posts people who are agreeable in all respects to the chiefs. We will resolutely combat such attempts. We will take radical measures, even including discharging the guilty persons from the Armed Forces. The Army and Navy will only benefit as a result.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] In the opinion of a number of researchers, a trend toward gradual growth in the Armed Forces' prestige in society has become apparent in recent months. How can you account for this?

[Grachev] It stems, above all, from the Russians' changed attitude toward their Armed Forces. The rebirth of the Russian state has restored people's historical memory. They have come to understand that such a great country as Russia has never before had a weak Army and Navy and must never have them in the future. This folk feeling has, figuratively speaking, entered the minds and hearts of our servicemen and brought about the start of profound changes in every Russian soldier, be he a private or a general. This is precisely why the desire and readiness to be worthy soldiers of a great country are strong among them.

Of course, an ordinary person, or, as it is now customary to say, the ordinary taxpayer does not notice the whole profundity of these changes. He sees and feels the chief thing—the Army is changing, and he has gotten a real opportunity to know where his money is going; to influence the military sphere through his deputy and the press; to participate in the Army's everyday life through the draftees of his own city, rayon, or village. Therefore, for him, the Army is today becoming not some abstract "attribute of statehood" but, in the literal sense, his everyday affair and everyday concern.

Finally, the Russian Army is not just a vast potential military force but also a real function aimed, above all, at defending the individual, at defending state interests. Now that the level of global military danger has diminished significantly, the Armed Forces—while not renouncing their main purpose of defending the Russian Federation's independence and territorial integrity and also fulfilling Russia's international commitments—are also ready and able to fulfill other tasks essential to the people and the state.

Take the Russian peacekeeping forces. The geography of their distribution is well known. There is the former SFRY, the Dniester region, and South Ossetia. I could spend a long time enumerating what Russian servicemen have done in these "hot spots." But the result is more important—thousands upon thousands of lives saved. Not only today but also in the future.

The Army is still rectifying the mistakes of past politicians in resolving the Afghan problem. None other than our own airmen and paratroopers have brought the Russian Embassy's personnel and also a number of diplomats of other countries out of Kabul, risking their lives every second under fierce fire. I think—no, I am sure—that just such actions will forever be a symbol of the Russian Army's historic purpose.

It is all this that enhances the prestige of the Russian Armed Forces.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] But the demands on soldiers are increasing and criticism is continuing....

[Grachev] I think that is inevitable. The Armed Forces' authority increases, so the bar is raised as far as demands on soldiers, particularly officers, are concerned. So it was, so it always will be. This is one of the sources of and the motive force behind the development of the Army and the Navy.

I accept criticism as long as it is constructive. While, indeed, we have the cadres that we do have. There is nowhere to get other cadres from. At the moment we are carrying out intensive studies in order to improve the process of training and retraining personnel for the Russian Armed Forces.

Naturally, this process will affect military education first and foremost. There are over 100 military schools and academies at the moment. That is obviously too many for the Russian Army, which will comprise approximately 1.5 million people by the year 2000. So we will be reducing the number of schools and academies. Some we will simply disband, others, since they deal with related spheres, we will amalgamate.

There will be significant changes in the organization and content of training. Change in this sphere essentially means training not so much today's as tommorrow's specialists. Seeing the shape of the future and bringing it nearer—that, in my view, should be the essential feature of the highly skilled military professional.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] But what cadres need is not only excellent military knowledge, not only continuity of tradition. They also need social protection, the creation of material and everyday conditions wherein servicemen feel adequate and confident....

[Grachev] I have climbed the officer ladder rung by rung. I know, not by hearsay but from personal experience, what it is like to be moved, to look for accommodations, to be short of money, and other domestic disruptions. So, obviously, it grieves me to see any infringement of servicemen's social rights. Particularly as it undermines the prestige of military service, encourages officers to seek early discharge, and places their future in jeopardy.

Unfortunately, there are instances of this in the Russian Armed Forces at the moment. In this connection I would identify several large groups of problems. The first I will call, for convenience's sake, "accommodations." The

problems in this group are the most acute and the most persistent. They were hard to deal with before. Now the situation is more difficult than ever before. Judge for yourselves. Of the 201,000 servicemen's families in need of accommodations in Russia, nearly 122,000 do not have apartments at all (I would point out that by the beginning of 1992 there were more than 104,000 without apartments).

But the president, government, and Defense Ministry of Russia are doing their utmost to accelerate the solution of the housing problem. In particular, a 21 July 1992 decree of the Russian Federation president made extra appropriations available to our ministry this year and in the first half of next year for 2.9 million square meters of housing for the Army amd Navy and 2.1 million square meters for those discharged from service. In implementation of this decree I signed an order (see KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 28 August) making it incumbent on the relevant commanders and officials to ensure the implementation of presidential instructions and demanded that all measures be adopted to fulfill the Defense Ministry's 1992 plan for the commissioning of housing. Other measures were envisaged to expand housing construction for servicemen. But I will be frank and say that the number of people without apartments will increase more rapidly than the number of apartments. Therefore I ask all those who need accommodations to see what the situation is actually like and to be patient still. Believe me, you are not forgotten, and every effort will be made to ensure you have a roof—your own, not someone else's—over your head as soon as possible.

The second large group of problems is the position of Russian servicemen in so-called nearby foreign parts. Ultimately it is a human rights issue. I can definitely say that the Russian Defense Ministry will continue to uphold the rights, honor, and dignity of Russian servicemen wherever they are. That is our fundamental position.

The third group of problems relates to withdrawing forces placed under Russian jurisdiction from abroad and billeting them on Russian territory. A state program for the withdrawal of Russian forces from the territory of other states, the stationing of these troops, and the provision of installations and amenities [obustroystvo] for them is being devised to tackle this problem. The most difficult thing here is, maybe, finding work for servicemen's wives and organizing schools, kindergartens, and cultural, consumer, and medical institutions. Clearly, not enough is being done at the moment. I believe that the servicemen's families can help one another here. After all, there are doctors, teachers, and other specialists among them. The Defense Ministry is obligated to support people who have taken it upon themselves to tackle a number of issues relating to social conditions and day-to-day living.

Yet another group of problems is connected with money and food for servicemen's upkeep, the provision of social and legal guarantees for them, observance of social justice, provision of pensions, and so on. Here, too, all is not well. For that very reason we are pinning great hopes on the adoption and implementation of the law "On the Status of and Social Guarantees for Servicemen," and the State Program for the Social Protection of Servicemen of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, People Discharged From Active Military Service, and Members of Their Families.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Thank you for the conversation, comrade Army general. We think the readers will appreciate your candor and frankness....

[Grachev] I hope so. After all, if we deceive ourselves from the start, we are hardly likely to finish the job.

I would like to make a request to all journalists—Russian and foreign. If any of you wants to write something about the defense minister, about the activities of the Defense Ministry or Russian Armed Forces, then approach the relevant military leaders directly or the ministry press service. Then you will not have to use rumors and uncorroborated information, which sometimes cause articles about the Army to be biased and untrue. And what the Russian people and the peoples of other countries need today is the truth about the Armed Forces.

Political Issues

Burbulis-Sponsored Document on Reforms Cited

PM0209142292 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Aug 92 p 2

[Nikolay Krivomazov and Viktor Trushkov report, incorporating extracts from "RF-Politika" document entitled "Nomenklatura Revanche as a Threat to Mankind:" "Burbulis Versus Yeltsin: State Secretary's Protege the RF-Politika 'Research' Center Formulates Program for New Dictatorship"]

[Text] Practically everyone, except the really idle, is criticizing the Russian president nowadays. There is plenty to criticize! We at PRAVDA have also more than once had occasion to express unflattering views of his actions. But here we have a special case—in terms of the degree of both trenchancy and intransigence. This assessment is contained, moreover, in what is more or less an official (secret?) document—an analytical memorandum with the highly symbolic title "Nomenklatura Revanche as a Threat to Mankind." Look at the wide sweep of the authors' thoughts: They are concerned not for the government, not even for the country, but for all mankind. No less. And who are they? The document is stamped: "RF- [Russian Federation] Politika Center." And that is an official structure. It only remains to guess who its boss is.

"There's no need to guess," Russian Vice President A. Rutskoy told our colleagues from RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA. "The name of the boss of RF-Politika is well known—Gennadiy Eduardovich Burbulis, former first vice premier and now state secretary."

Incidentally, the authors of the document cited attribute to G. Burbulis an exceptionally important role in the salvation of mankind. They urge: "A political conference should be set up immediately... under the president's auspices," "with the participation of the president, the state secretary," and other suitable individuals.

The RF-Politika program document, prepared in time for the anniversary of the August "victory of the democrats," contains an analysis of the situation in Russia and a prediction of the future development of events. We are sure it is of interest, not only to the elite and the initiated.

So here are some extracts from the document from G. Burbulis' "kitchen." (The subheads are ours.)

Has He Already Done All He Can?

The quality of the president's policy, which was in any case poor, has deteriorated irreversibly: The "death throes of the reforms" have begun, with possibly disastrous consequences for every individual and for society as a whole.

The president of Russia, against the background of firm and encouraging declarations of "loyalty to the course of reforms," is manifesting an obvious lack of a systematic approach on key policy problems, is moving increasingly irreversibly—in terms of the significance of his concrete actions—into opposition to his own reforms, is falling increasingly under the influence of his customary nomenklatura stereotypes, and is sinking ever deeper in the quagmire of Gorbachevism, ultimately becoming the leader of the "anti-Yeltsin" process. Reserves of confidence in the Russian president, which at one time seemed inexhaustible, are evaporating—and not because of the trials and tribulations caused by the reforms, but because of irresolution, because of vacillations and inconsistencies that are plain for all to see, and because talk of the "people's interests" and democracy does not withstand the confrontation with nomenklatura reflexes and habits, which are beginning, before the people's very eyes, to develop into that old familiar nomenklatura arrogance. Petrov, whom Yeltsin promised "not to abandon" to the democrats, is above all a symbol of Yeltsin himself, who it seems has not actually "abandoned" himself entirely to democracy.

An unsystematic approach in state policy and consequently a simplistic, sweeping approach in cadre policy—all this, which stems from the personal prehistory of particular individuals, cannot today justify actions or inaction on the part of people who are charged with responsibility not for their own career, but for the fate of millions of people who have put their trust in them. And today, as we hear no answer to the sacred question: "Are you with the people, Boris Nikolayevich?", it seems necessary to ask new questions: Is it only a matter of incompetence and irresponsibility that becomes criminal by virtue of the scale of the responsibility in question, only a matter of an inability to understand that the confidence of millions of people must be paid for at an eternally high price—or is it simply a matter of the return of the prodigal son who has achieved what he wanted all his life—the post of general secretary in the Kremlin?

Nomenklatura in Power

The crux of the present-day political and economic situation is that we are nearing the end of the latest major stage in the country's development, in society's progress along the path to deliverance from totalitarianism and from the all-permeating spiritual and material slavery of the so-called socialist or communist era...

And this stage is nearing completion—culminating in yet another victory for the nomenklatura, which has not only kept and augmented its economic might, but has in general regained its all but shattered political positions in the organs of power.

The party and state nomenklatura has succeeded in:

—**suppressing seats of non-nomenklatura activity in the president's administration, the government, and a number of democratic soviets;**

—blocking the formation of a strong and effective democratic movement and placing great difficulties in the path of the creation, functioning, and development of genuinely free democratic political, trade union, and other social organizations... —**blocking the effective realization of any significant reform steps in politics (the power of the soviets that were elected in 1990 on direct instructions—in the vast majority of cases—from the relevant Communist Party committees has been preserved) and in the economy (the private sector in production, which is in any case insignificant in size and influence, is continuing to be stifled...)**

Trojan Horse in the Government

As a result of the occupation of key positions in the Russian Government and the establishment of a reactionary majority among the body of deputies, the nomenklaturization process is guaranteed top-level political patronage...

The entire edifice of Russian statehood is today reminiscent of the hall of the Great Kremlin Palace during the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies—the contents of the Mausoleum, draped in the tricolor of "freedom," lie in wait for Russian democracy like a sinister Nemesis.

It was the Sixth Congress, from whose results B. Yeltsin drew the hasty conclusion that "conservative revanche has failed"—it was this Congress and the subsequent events that showed that the universal, all-embracing process whereby all the main positions are coming under the control of the party and state nomenklatura is snowballing.

The "reform government" was in effect eliminated at the congress itself, and the role of "Gaydar's team" was reduced to that of cover for the curtailment of reforms,

the restoration of the fundamentals of a state repressive-distributive economy, and the "luring in" of Western investments. The advent to power and to the levers of economic management of people drawn from among the generals of the military-industrial complex—G. Khizha, V. Chernomyrdin, and others—suggests that by the end of the summer it will be possible to see as successfully completed the process of blocking the latest attempts at "reform from above"...

The World Is Ruled by... the CPSU

And since the human community—not only in Russia and the former "socialist countries," but throughout the world—is not prepared for rapid juridical policing measures against highly dangerous criminal acts, countries and peoples are beginning to sink with no apparent reason into bloody chaos, irrespective of their prehistory, ethnic composition, and level of cultural development—this is true of the "hot-blooded" Caucasus, the politically indifferent, international Dniester region, the impoverished "people's democratic" countries of Africa, and the wholly European, civilized (and not even entirely socialist) Yugoslavia.

The logic of being dragged with incredible, harsh, irresistible force into a maelstrom of terror and violence is now being manifested not only within the area of the former USSR, where it shines with an increasingly bloodstained light through the pale coverings of the administrative-economic nomenklatura's political and economic games, but also throughout the world—not only the "second" and "third" worlds, but even the "first," civilized world.

Lurking behind the backs of thousands of "moderate" members of the nomenklatura and the "constructive opposition" of all those who know not what they do, we see emerging ever more clearly that old "specter of communism"—or rather, not a specter, but the living and only slightly damaged face of the monster that used to be tactfully described as the CPSU nomenklatura: fully armed with its timeworn ideological cliches, fully armed with cliches that are less timeworn but still its own...

Shadow of the SCSE [State Committee for the State of Emergency] Again

The president and the few remaining reformers in his entourage, since they still consider themselves to be participants in the democratic process and still set themselves reformist goals, should take the following action. **1. Adopt speedy, tough measures to ensure the effective implementation of a radical reform policy: —draw up as soon as possible the concept for and composition of a highly effective democratic government of radical reforms; appeal to the population of Russia to collect signatures in support of holding a referendum, explain to them the political situation in the country, and set forth the president's program of action in the people's interests; —draw up and adopt a package of measures toward the urgent implementation of large-scale state and cadre reform, remove representatives of the party and state nomenklatura from the President's Administration, and adopt presidential decrees on suspending the activity of representatives of the former party and state nomenklatura on organs of executive power, down to the level of rayons and small cities; —make preparations for ending—in not more than three months' time—the practice of appointing heads of administrations, and for carrying out—by mid-fall—a campaign for elections of heads of administrations of krays, oblasts, cities, and rayons; —immediately implement a reform—first and foremost a cadre reform—of the system of management of internal affairs and security organs, the special services, and special information collection and processing systems, and establish effective democratic monitoring of their activity; replace the Security Council leadership... 2. Implement radical political measures to clamp down on food and economic sabotage and blackmail**, to eliminate the support structures and basic potential of the administrative-economic nomenklatura, and to systematically undermine the political positions of the "directors' lobby," to which end it is necessary: **—to go over to a "counteroffensive"—which must without fail be comprehensible to the population (and supported by them)—against the political aggression of the "body of directors" and the rest of the nomenklatura, and to that end urgently to draw up and adopt a package of radical measures to eliminate in practice the state-bureaucratic economy and grant enterprises the right freely to leave associations; to abolish "concerns"; to close all channels of state finance for "industrial giants"; to give the administration of state enterprises the same conditions for their activities as those that apply to private enterprise structures; —to adopt measures to ensure a speedy, real, and rapidly effective liberalization of the conditions of activity for entrepreneurial structures. 3. To adopt immediate, tough measures to ensure the real, mass granting of land for ownership** by all citizens of Russia who so wish, through the adoption of a direct-action presidential decree removing the obstacles and contradictions present in existing legislation. **4. To introduce strict, real, and visible accountability of officials** at any (including the highest) level for sabotaging the law and the reforms and for corruption.

The president, together with the reformers in his entourage, should adopt immediate measures to restore to the government the functions of the political center of reforms in Russia, to which end a political conference should be set up immediately under the president's auspices, with the participation of the president, the state secretary, leaders of the "reform team," and Russian Federation deputies who support the ideology of reforms. This conference would formulate and publish for general information... the composition of a structurally simplified government stripped of antireform "practical" people...

As a consequence of this, what is needed is: **—Immediate concrete actions to create a single Russia-wide democratic organization with the ideology of civil liberation and to form a "think tank" to formulate an action program and**

an information and propaganda policy in connection with the need for the creation of such an organization; to set up an independent political newspaper expressing the active political interests of the initiators of the new movement; to form a permanently operating information, communications, and analytical system to tackle tasks of providing information and analytical support for the democratic process. —The stepping up of efforts by progressive forces to coordinate their activity in the sphere of social protection, which has currently been misleadingly usurped by the nomenklatura's "trade unions" and other structures that have nothing to do with social protection; the restoration of links between the democratic movement and the workers' movement and the creation of the conditions for the formation and development of genuinely independent trade unions; efforts to eliminate the pseudo-trade-unions of the FITUR [Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia], which constitute the legal wing of the party and state nomenklatura. —Last, CLOSE MONITORING—in the near future—of the activity of the president and government and the general course of events in the country, and—in the event of the absence of resolute steps by the president and government to overcome the nomenklatura revanche—a formal break with the president and a declaration that democratic forces are going into unreserved opposition to the leadership. [extracts from document end]

And so, deep at the heart of extreme democracy, where State Secretary G. Burbulis rules, yet another action program has been formulated. All this analysis by the "researchers" was needed for just one thing—"TO ADOPT IMMEDIATE, TOUGH MEASURES." And in order to ensure that there is no slackening in the implementation of these measures, the democratically elected president and government are to be taken under "close monitoring," under someone's thumb. But whose, Gennadiy Eduardovich?

Parliament, Government on Civil Service Law

OW0209141792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1246 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During a conference, held on Tuesday [1 September] evening by Russia's Vice-Premier Boris Saltykov, the "serious disagreements" over the law on civil service, drafted by experts of the government and of the parliament were overcome. A government expert told IF [INTERFAX] that by mutual agreement only one draft law will be submitted to parliament. Preference was given to the government's variant.

According to IF's source, the most radical differences between the versions of the Cabinet and parliament are as follows:

1. The Cabinet's draft gives the status of civil servants exclusively to those who are involved in taking managerial decisions (state and government personnel). Thus the number of civil servants is limited to 6-7 million. The parliament proposed increasing the number of civil servants because it included the staff of state-run establishments in it.

2. The government's variant lays all the responsibility for selecting state personnel on the president, thus emphasizing his special role. The authors of the parliamentary version did not place the president's position higher than that of the civil servants to which they refer the head of state.

3. The parliament has envisaged 14 categories of civil servants, saying nothing about the president's special status. The government's variant has four groups of posts (group A includes the president, and the vice-presidents of the Russian Federation and the republics belonging to it).

4. The Cabinet's draft puts a ban on civil servants' membership of political parties and their participation in strikes. The parliament's version has no such ban.

5. The parliament's draft reserves compulsory social guarantees for civil servants. For instance, top-ranking officials (ranks 1 to 5) are provided with state "dachas" and comfortable housing. The government's variant reserves no privileges of this kind.

Commission Views Amendments to Constitution

OW0209190092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1552 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday, September 2nd, the Russian Constitutional Commission commenced its review of the draft constitution. The commission's review body and team of experts are considering amendments which were proposed by deputies at the 6th Conference of Russian Deputies together with those proposed by republican, district and regional councils, federal departments, and recent proposals made by the Russian president himself.

In one month's time, the review will be complete and will be discussed at the Plenary Meeting of the Constitutional Commission, after which it will be examined section by section at an autumn session of the Russian Supreme Soviet. The draft would then, presumably, be considered during at a first reading at the next Conference of Russian Peoples' Deputies, according to the Commission's senior secretary, Oleg Rumyantsev.

Economic Issues

Experts Assess Prospects for Money Market

LD0209194392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1243 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By BUSINESS TASS]

[Text] Moscow September 2 TASS—One dollar will be exchanged for 212.5 roubles at the next sale at the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange. This prediction

is made on Wednesday [2 September] by the Fund for Privatisation Support and Development of the Financial Market on a basis of expert estimates.

Assessing the situation at the money market, specialists of the Fund for Privatisation Support note that the demand for foreign currency this week dropped markedly as compared with August 27, when the rate of the dollar rose steeply to 205.0 roubles. This is connected with the fact that the dollar rate of 210.5 roubles registered at the latest came closer to the commodity rate of the rouble even for most effective import operations, which is now 230-250 roubles to one dollar. This led to a certain stabilisation of the foreign currency market.

Experts of the fund are of the opinion that in conditions of inflation the strengthening of the rouble is improbable. At the same time, there exist three basic factors which can shore up the rouble for the near future. First, the introduction of new rates of import tariff limits the effectiveness of the import and is corresponding to the level of the rate on which exporters may count. Second, the impending wave of price rises on raw materials and food can restrain the demand for foreign currency, as funds in roubles will be drawn to the area of energy and resource consumption. Third, the Russian Central Bank considers variants of introducing the fixed (and, naturally, appreciated) rate of the rouble to the dollar with the obligatory sale of the part of foreign currency receipts of exporter enterprises, which may also have a stabilising effect on the rouble.

Central Bank Hard Currency Reserve: $100 Million

OW0209140492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1248 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the acting chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, Viktor Gerashchenko, the hard currency reserves which the Bank is able to use for stabilizing the ruble do not not amount to more than $100 million. Speaking today at a luncheon arranged by the Business Enterprise Council under the Russian President, Gerashchenko said the Bank was not going to abandon the practice of selling hard currency in order to raise the value of the ruble but "we can run out of money at any moment." According to Gerashchenko, the Central Bank put $30 million on sale at the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange last week when the ruble went down extremely low, the rate reaching 205 rubles to a dollar. Altogether in the first eight months of 1992, the Central Bank sold more than $650 million in this way.

He added that, in view of the nonconvertibility of the ruble, exporters should be made to convert all their hard currency revenues into rubles but should be allowed to buy hard currency to make payments on import contracts.

Bank Official Calls Freeing Prices 'Mistake'

LD0309141392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] First Vice Chairman of Russia's Central Bank, Voylukov, has said it was a mistake to free prices last January at the beginning of the reforms. It had to be started with privatization or, at least, both processes should be carried out simultaneously, stressed Voylukov in a press interview. According to him, in any civilized country, liberalization of prices is a controlled process. The banker predicts the prices in Russia will double by the end of the year. Incomes of the population will increase about as much.

Liberalization of Energy Prices Expected Soon

OW0209204592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1836 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Minister for Economics Andrey Nechayev today stated at a meeting with economic advisors from foreign embassies in Moscow that the government resolution on reviewing energy prices "was now ready and should be signed very shortly". When the resolution is passed, Nechayev emphasised, Russia will make a "decisive step towards liberalising energy prices". He added that total liberalisation of prices was, for the time being, not a prospect, since "defined limits" would be maintained.

In response to an IF [INTERFAX] correspondent's request for his comments on today's statement by the acting chairman of the Central bank of Russia, Viktor Geraschenko, that the bank intends to offer export enterprises the opportunity to sell 100% of their hard currency earnings, Nechayev said that the government, in theory, backs this initiative. However, he gave the impression that at the moment, while the domestic hard currency market is very weak, it would be a politically difficult undertaking to take away from enterprises the opportunities which they have been given. If the Central Bank were to request the obligatory sale of all hard currency earnings in the near future, then the government, according to Nechayev, would display "a degree of caution" and would possibly oppose any such request.

Fuel May Be in Short Supply During Winter

OW0209141092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1249 GMT 02 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia should get 85 million tonnes of coal in the fourth quarter of the year to have enough fuel and electricity for its industry and population in the winter of 1992/93. In an interview with IF [INTERFAX], the deputy chairman of the Coal Industry Workers' Union, Ivan Mokhnachev, said that this year quarterly coal production has not amounted to more than 70-72 million tonnes.

This year's fall in coal production has been less serious than was last year's—no more than 4%. However the union leadership believes that, unless urgent measures are taken in the coal industry, e.g. wages are raised, it may lose much of its manpower, which may result in grave fuel shortages during the coming winter.

Chubays on Voluntary Enterprise Transformation

LD0309110292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Report by G. Fadeyeva; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Begin Vice President A. Chubays recording] We are just going to transform 4,560 enterprises into joint stock companies and approximately 1,200 enterprises are to do this on a voluntary basis. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Agricultural Issues

Yeltsin Decree on 1992 Federal Grain Stocks

PM0309101792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Sep 92 First Edition p 4

[Decree No. 916 of the President of the Russian Federation issued in Moscow on 24 August: "On the Use of Grain From the 1992 Harvest in the Russian Federation"]

[Text] With the aim of making the most efficient use of grain from the 1992 harvest and increasing the responsibility of republic governments and the administrations of krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations within the Russian Federation in satisfying territories' food and feed grain requirements, I resolve:

1. The Russian Federation Government, the governments of republics within the Russian Federation, and the administrations of krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations are to create federal and regional grain stocks from the 1992 harvest in sufficient volumes to meet the Russian Federation territories' needs for grain and processed grain products until the 1993 harvest.

2. The federal grain stock will comprise grain purchases from republics within the Russian Federation and krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations which provide for its commodity production, and also grain purchases from CIS countries and imported grain. The federal grain stock will be used to meet the grain product requirements of territories that do not produce grain or have restricted possibilities for producing it, as well as the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, and for other state needs.

To establish that the federal stock of grain and processed grain products are the property of the Russian Federation, regardless of where they are stored. This output is transported and used on the orders of the Russian Federation Ministry of Trade and Material Resources Committee for Grain Products.

3. Regional grain stocks of republics within the Russian Federation and krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations comprise purchases of locally produced grain, grain from CIS countries, and imported grain; allocations of grain from the federal stock are used according to the procedure determined by the governments of republics within Russia and the administrations of krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations.

4. The Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Trade and Material Resources Committee for Grain Products, the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, and the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations are to determine within a two-week period:

the volume of the delivery of grain to the federal grain stock per republic within the Russian Federation, and per kray, oblast, and autonomous formation;

the volume of grain allocations from the federal stock to republics within the Russian Federation and krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations;

the necessary volume of grain purchases from CIS states and imported grain;

the list and volume of goods supplied for export with the aim of covering expenditure connected with the import of grain.

To submit the coordinated draft decisions on the given questions to the Russian Federation Government.

5. In accordance with existing legislation, to lay personal responsibility on the leaders of the Councils of Ministers (governments) of republics within the Russian Federation and organs of executive power of krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations to meet the relevant territories' requirements for grain and processed grain products.

6. The Russian Federation Ministry of Trade and Material Resources Committee for Grain Products is to provide for the acceptance, drying, preparation, and storage of all the grain coming into the federal stock, and for allocations from this stock of grain and the processed grain products to territories that do not produce grain or have restricted possibilities to produce it, to the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, and for other state needs.

7. The decree enters into force from the moment it is signed.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

[Issued in] Moscow Kremlin

[Dated] 24 August 1992

No. 916

Problems in Grain Procurement, Prices Viewed

LD0209224692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 2 Sep 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Our colleagues from ITAR-TASS have today done a review of the grain sale process in Russia. The government has considerably increased grain procurement prices—1 tonne now costs the treasury on average a little less than 12,000 rubles [R], and even more for wheat. That will require around R400 billion. The procurement prices have been raised, yet only individual oblasts have met the target volume for grain sales to the state. At the start of September in the Russian Federation little more than 13 million tonnes have gone into the state reserves, which is less than half of the requirements for food purposes.

If one takes account of the fact that this year around 94-98 million tonnes of grain will be harvested from the fields, the figure 13 says a lot, first and foremost about flagrant violation of state discipline by the monopoly producers and collective and state farms. The legislators have envisaged appropriate economic measures for this situation. It cannot be ruled out that criminal charges might be brought, all the more since the majority of collective and state farms have nowhere to store the grain. The breadgrain is lying out in the open.

Moreover, a loaf of bread is going to cost the consumer no less than R40. Flour, macaroni, groats, and other grain products are also going up, and the state is having to lay out additional expenditure to support the poorer strata of the population. If the collective and state farms fail to meet the target volume for grain sales to the state, hard currency expenditure on buying grain from our partners abroad will inevitably increase.

Nuclear Power Issues

Nuclear Power Station Safety Concerns Aired

PM0309080792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Report by Yuriy Mirkin; from the "AES: Inside View" documentary]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Mirkin] I worked at the Kalinin Nuclear Power Station for eight years. I knew it inside out, and I realized that there must never be any internal problems at a nuclear giant.

Unfortunately, many people are talking about shutting down nuclear power stations for environmental reasons. This is hampering the work of those people in whose hands our safety lies. According to official figures, safety standards are satisfactory—but it is better to see something once than to hear it 1,000 times. And today, as a former operator in the reactor department, I will give you my view on how a nuclear power station operates.

A nuclear power station is like a human organism in which the reactor is the heart and the pipes are the arteries—with water flowing through them instead of blood. You are looking at the modular control console. This is the brain center. Control over all areas in the station is exercised from here.

Like any living organism, a nuclear power station needs constant looking after, health care, and monitoring if diseases—or accidents—are to be diagnosed in good time. Around 50 possible accident scenarios at stations of this type have been defined. Even if the automatic equipment works perfectly, the operators must work very quickly and confidently in these situations—in accordance with their instructions. Any confusion or inopportune action could have unforeseeable consequences. I know from my own experience just what kind of physical and mental pressure the night shift operators live under. There is the burden of responsibility and the huge number of figures they must constantly keep in their heads. If you add to this the constant pressure from above to perform, it seems to me that this is far too high a level of stress to place on people in such dangerous work. People get used to danger, they adapt to it, and they stop being careful.

In our former socialist society everything was ruled by the plan. There was a plan for the amount of electricity the nuclear power station was meant to produce. There still is today. And the determining factor in nuclear workers' pay isn't the quality of their work, but the amount of electricity produced.

The station management's prosperity also depends primarily on how smoothly it operates. Here is what Gennadiy Aleksandrovich Shchepov, director of the Kalinin Nuclear Power Station, said in an interview with local TV on the eve of Power Workers' Day last December.

[Begin Shchepov recording] Well, the role of nuclear power stations has now increased—put it that way. Operational meetings have been chaired by Deputy Energy Minister Yevgeniy Ivanovich, and he has asked that nuclear stations maintain their working capacity—without lowering their safety standards, naturally. [end recording]

[Mirkin] Let's try to work this one out—can a nuclear power station work to the limit of its capacity without detriment to safety standards? We're entering the reactor hall during maintenance. The history of nuclear power is just a few decades old and is essentially a very big, dangerous experiment. The need to produce as much electricity as possible gives rise to continual nervousness and hastiness. It leads to breaches of operating regulations—and God forbid there be any holdups. Here's Anatoliy Fedorovich Nikolayev, chief of one of the station's operational shifts.

[Begin Nikolayev recording] The acceptance of directive timetables led to a situation where equipment that wasn't entirely ready for normal operations—put it that

way—was pressed into service. And, as a result, the personnel are now using this equipment. [end recording]

[Mirkin] We're in the so-called sealed area [germoobyem]—the concrete cap over the reactor. It is forbidden to enter this area when the reactor is in operation. And any fault left unrepaired during an overhaul cannot be rectified without reducing capacity. Although there are exceptions to even this rule. The station's reliable operation depends on the quality of the overhauls. But the timetables for scheduled overhauls at the station are rather tight and do not allow enough time to correct all the faults.

Even in the reactor hall there are dozens of faults in Soviet-produced equipment that have not been corrected for years. The overhauls themselves are poorly organized, and things are getting worse and worse between each one. At the start of one people will literally be sent to check equipment that is still hot, then there is a long lull, and toward the end of the overhaul there is again a terrible rush and safety techniques often go by the board. Just such a rush at the Balakovo Nuclear Power Station once resulted in people literally being boiled alive. Negligence and hastiness result in cavalier management methods. This is an operational meeting being led by Gennadiy Grigoryevich Orel, deputy chief engineer for overhauls. These pictures need no comment.

The vicious circle of power shortages starts with the ministry and ends with the people who actually do the job. And any resistance is useless anyway—nobody's indispensable. I was shocked to learn of attempts to even accelerate an operation such as the replacement [peregruzka] of nuclear fuel. It led to uranium dioxide assemblies being damaged. It's amazing that such things can happen after Chernobyl. Haste can result in dangerous situations and losses running into millions. But, clearly, there is a force capable of overcoming the necessary degree of caution and common sense.

[Begin Shchepov recording] We had an annual plan of 10.5 billion kilowatt-hours. In the space of 11 months we've already produced 11.039 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity. So this year we'll probably have produced in the region of 2 billion more than planned. [end recording]

[Mirkin] The station management has been forced to deal with financial and other problems, apparently closing their eyes to the conditions in which people and equipment have to operate, and to the impact this has on safety.

The latest overhaul to the No. 1 Power Unit at the Kalinin Nuclear Power Station was no exception. If a station is to operate reliably, the water in its arterial pipes must be purer than distilled water. Even before the overhaul began, dirt had gotten into the pipes. But, because people were in a hurry and trusted to luck, the pipes were not cleaned out during the overhaul. The unit was started up again with dirty pipes. And, consequently, from 22 January through 7 February the nuclear power unit was operating with dirty water. They tried to improve the quality by filtration while running at full capacity. But this venture was a failure. The reactor still had to be shut down. This was only done when all the pipes got thoroughly blocked with dirt. Shutting down the reactor for another overhaul led to a shortfall in electricity production. This shortfall will be made up using the same methods.

And the expensive steam generators—which already had design faults—will have to be replaced after being used in this way. Meanwhile, young men are accumulating their permitted dose of radiation through overhauling the old steam generators.

One of the operational personnel's duties during an overhaul is to ensure safe working conditions. But, with such an influx of work orders, monitoring every working position is quite simply physically impossible.

It's very hard to find what you're looking for on blueprints that were produced on poor-quality paper. Yet these are the documents used for routine switching [operativnoye pereklyucheniye].

More and more equipment breaks down the longer the station is in operation. Imported safety valves are long overdue for replacement. But there is nothing with which to replace them because of a shortage of foreign exchange. There is a shortage of spare parts, too. The emergency pumping systems are being fitted with parts that might not be able to take the pressures they would have to face in extreme conditions.

[Video shows woman sewing] Not to mention breathing apparatus, socks, and gloves.

[Video shows two men unscrewing a nut] The obsolete equipment and the lack of the necessary appliances means that large numbers of people are unavoidably involved in overhauls—particularly in high-radiation areas, where worktime is limited. Our nuclear power stations have far more maintenance personnel than similar foreign stations. Over there they have special impact wrenches for unscrewing nuts.

[Video shows man using sledgehammer] Just imagine—you cannot even overhaul the reactor control and protection system without a sledgehammer! Here is the opinion of Yevgeniy Mikhaylovich Sinitsyn, chief of the centralized overhaul section.

[Begin Sinitsyn recording] Maintenance personnel have been working under conditions that persisted at the turn of the century. And that's the way it still is. For instance, their wrench is a sledgehammer. In other words, things are still very difficult because of the low level of mechanization. And attempts by the management to improve working conditions for maintenance personnel have so far had a very limited impact. [end recording]

[Mirkin] There are probably as many women at the nuclear power station as there are men. And there is almost complete equality when it comes to the radiation dose they receive and their working conditions. Girls

who are only 18 work alongside men in dangerous areas. No, it is not that easy finding work in a town of power workers. And hunger is a great leveler, as they say.

[Begin recording] [Shchepov] So the good results we have achieved at the Kalinin station have been thanks to the selfless—it may be a cliche but it is the right word—the selfless work of our people. All the more so as you can imagine the situation we are in.

[Unidentified reporter] Yes, yes.

[Shchepov] It is a terrible situation. People who know the business will understand that. I will just say that it is not nice having to work when you need to barter for everything. And although we are producing such a scarce product we cannot...

[Reporter, interrupting] Get anything in return...

[Shchepov, continuing] ...we cannot get hold of anything. We have got the money but there is nothing to be had. So the material and technical situation is very difficult. As is the spare parts situation. We are currently overhauling the No. 2 Power Unit, and this is hitting our maintenance people—all our people, actually—very hard.

[Mirkin] Risking their health, these guys use their knowledge and skills to compensate for the obsolete equipment, inaccurate documentation, another's irresponsible behavior, and much else besides. In our troubled times the potential danger posed by a nuclear power station is doubled, and nuclear power workers have to be twice as careful. But in today's situation it is simply unrealistic to expect quality work from them. I clearly realized this in the course of my job at the station. Suggestions about changing the current system have repeatedly been made at the highest level. But the vicious circle has not been broken. And, meanwhile, our nuclear power stations are being dragged ever deeper into the maelstrom of the market economy—with its stresses, reduced discipline, strike threats, and other delights.

All the claims by officials that safety standards at nuclear power stations are satisfactory are not worth a dime. You have been able to see this for yourselves. The fire at the Balakovo Nuclear Power Station and the reactor accident at the Leningrad station were stories that hit the press in March alone. The official reports on what happened draw a veil over the potential dangers—what could happen in a worst-case scenario. Even though we have been through this already with Chernobyl, one Chernobyl has not taught us anything.

This is a far more serious threat than the threat of famine. I have stated my view about how nuclear power stations are run not in order to show for the umpteenth time just how chaotic things are in this country. Nor to call for the closure of all nuclear stations—they provide power and heat that we cannot do without. And they employ some of our best and brightest. But we have to change our attitude to nuclear power. First and foremost, we have to stop the pressure on nuclear power workers. Their work should not be judged by the amount of electricity they produce—safety must be the main criterion, otherwise no technical modernization will help us.

In the developed countries, pay levels in nuclear power do not depend on the amount generated. France has developed a special safety culture, with a code of regulations that is binding for all nuclear power station personnel. But our nuclear workers work in an environment that has no time for safety standards.

If we are currently unable to get by without unsophisticated nuclear power stations, then we must at least protect ourselves and the people who work at them from any unnecessary risk. We must not delay.

I would not like to think that every nuclear power station is bringing us one step nearer to an apocalypse. [Video shows interior, exterior of station, overhaul operations]

Supreme Soviet

Deputies Try To Force Khasbulatov Resignation

LD0209160992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] A news conference of members of the Reform Coalition was held today at the Parliamentary Center of the Russian Federation. Here are details from our special correspondent Nikolay Artemyev:

[Artemyev] The Reform Coalition is launching a campaign for the resignation of Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet. This was declared by People's Deputies Leonid Volkov, Boris Zolotukhin, Petr Filippov, Vyacheslav Volkov, Nikolay Arzhannikov, Lev Ponomarev, and Yuriy Nesterov, who took part in the news conference. The main reasoning behind their statements was that the attitude of the speaker was objectively promoting the establishment of the ratio of power in Russia and confrontation between the executive and legislative authorities. This will inevitably lead to the collapse of reform and the establishment of a dictatorship.

The participants in the news conference accused Ruslan Khasbulatov of seeking to usurp power, which was manifested in his appropriation of certain functions belonging in law to Sergey Filatov, the first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet. Here they have in mind, for instance, membership in the Security Council; the first deputy chairman is a member of it by virtue of his office, but by an appropriate instruction of the speaker, he has been reduced in effect to being his representative in that council.

The participants in the news conference, on the eve of the opening of the next session of the Supreme Soviet, said that the people's deputies were becoming increasingly dependent on the apparat of the Supreme Soviet and wholly accountable to the speaker. The threat of the usurpation of power has gathered head at the heart of the

parliament. Such is the opinion of the representatives of the Reform Coalition who took part in the news conference at the Russian Parliamentary Center.

However, they did not take upon themselves the responsibility of speaking on behalf of all the members of that coalition, nor did they say how many mandates are held by those who are of the same opinion.

Accusations Enumerated

LD0209193692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Excerpts] As previously reported, the Reform parliamentary coalition is launching a drive for the resignation of Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov. Our special correspondent Nikolay Artemev has the details:

[Artemev] [passage omitted] Ruslan Khasbulatov was subjected to criticism at the news conference for supposedly making trips to Italy and Saudi Arabia at state expense, for giving the order to throw Chechens out of Moscow hotels, and for not admitting that he gave the scandalous and infamous interview to the Italian newspaper REPUBBLICA. These events, the news conference participants consider, are enough for the resignation of the Supreme Soviet chairman to be demanded. Incidentally they did not claim to speak on behalf of all members of the coalition, and they did not report how many deputy seats in the body of deputies are held by like-minded people.

Thus the clouds are gathering over the parliamentary speaker's head, and we will soon find out whether a storm will break.

Supreme Soviet Press Center on Dispute

LD0209184592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] The press center of the Russian Supreme Soviet has issued a commentary in connection with the appearance of an article analyzing Ruslan Khasbulatov's instructions on the allocation of duties among the parliament's chairman, his deputies and the chairmen of the chambers. The commentary says, in particular, that the conclusion in this article about the infringement of the rights of Sergey Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, is an invention. The adoption of the new document on the allocation of duties, the commentary stresses, is not an infringement of anyone's rights, but an objective necessity, bringing the previous allocation of duties in line with parliamentary practice.

However, in conversation with our correspondent Otto Latsis, one of the authors of the article noted that the commentary from the parliamentary press center contains no response to the arguments adduced in IZVESTIYA, in which Otto Latsis asserts that Khasbulatov has been trying, by making use of the right to allocate duties, to reserve for himself functions of authority going beyond his powers.

Regional Affairs

Krasnodar Announces State of Emergency

OW0209190192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1551 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vassili Dyakonov, Head of Krasnodar (South Russia/North Caucasia) Regional Administration, issued a decree on Tuesday [1 September] in which he announced a state of emergency in the region connected with the situation in Abkhazia. IF [INTERFAX] learned this from the Regional Administration itself. In the same circular, Dyakonov authorised armed Cossack divisions to "maintain law and order in the region".

Bashkir Official Condemns Abkhazian Events

MK0209130992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Radik Batyrshin: "Georgia and Abkhazia Agree on Cease-Fire, But Firefights Continue"]

[Text] On 28 August the Bashkir authorities sent a cable addressed to Eduard Shevardnadze:

"...It is with bitterness and alarm that we observe Georgia's increasing aggression against Abkhazia, which was started on a spurious pretext, and the deaths of innocent people. The fire of war threatens to spread to other North Caucasus republics and to leap across to the southern regions of Russia adjacent to them. We are convinced that there are not and cannot be sufficient grounds for jeopardizing innocent people's lives or overthrowing the Abkhazian Republic state authorities legally elected by them in accordance with the constitution.

"The Bashkir leadership and its multiethnic people once again (referring to the 19 August statement by the leaders of Bashkortostan, Kazakhstan, and Tatarstan—N.G.) demand that the Georgian Republic leadership end the fratricidal war in Abkhazia, withdraw its occupying troops from Abkhazian territory, and sit down at the negotiating table with the Abkhazian leadership.

"[Signed] M. Rakhimov, chairman of the Republic of Bashkortostan Supreme Soviet

"M. Mirgazyamov, chairman of the Republic of Bashkortostan Council of Ministers"

A NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent contacted Murtaza Rakhimov, chairman of the Bashkortostan Supreme Soviet, by telephone.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] You met with the chairman of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers in Ufa 28 August. What did you talk about?

[Rakhimov] He briefed me on the situation in Abkhazia. We agreed that we would give Abkhazia one-shot humanitarian aid in medical supplies, food, and petroleum products. A special session of the republic Council of Ministers was devoted to this topic. An aircraft carrying medical supplies left Ufa for Abkhazia today.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] Why have you appealed to the Georgian State Council leadership twice in a month?

[Rakhimov] Is it really possible to remain indifferent to the fate of a small people? Because it is genuine genocide. Russia must intervene more decisively. Shevardnadze himself, being the head of an illegitimate authority, is overthrowing the legally elected Abkhazian parliament. Then, is it really possible to declare one's readiness to give up 100,000 Georgian lives in order to annihilate all Abkhazians? But the Russian leadership regards this calmly. If the State Council leaves our appeal unanswered, we will be forced to adopt economic sanctions—we will terminate all deliveries to Georgia. And we will appeal for other republics to take similar action in defense of the Abkhazian people. (The volume of Bashkir petroleum product deliveries to Georgia this year is 500,000 tonnes).

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] Are you not afraid that Moscow will express its displeasure at your interference in "big-time politics?"

[Rakhimov] It is our affair, it is a common affair. We cannot remain apathetic. But the Russian leadership, which recognizes Macedonia's sovereignty, cannot see what is going on right under its own nose.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] Do you think that Bashkortostan is threatened with Abkhazia's fate?

[Rakhimov] Anything can happen, because by its apathy Russia forces us to think about this. A very dangerous precedent is being set.

Yakutsk Proposes Amendments to Constitution

OW0209185892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1553 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Yakutsk has proposed 17 amendments drafted by the republic's parliamentary presidium be added to the current proposal for a Russian Federation Constitution.

The republic suggested, in particular, the need to develop a federal structure which would include the Federal Agreement signed March 31, 1992. The presidium of the Russian Federation Parliament feels that Russian republics should have no less than 50% of seats in one chamber, as is provided in a separate protocol in the Federal Agreement. The federal body would then have the status of the highest chamber, and the state duma would be lower.

It was also proposed that a Federal Council be created under the President of the Russian Federation and composed of individuals with important posts in the governments of Russian republics.

The Yakutsk Parliamentary Presidium demands the representation of all Russian republics in the Constitutional and Supreme Courts of the Russian Federation.

Tatarstan Forwards Military Policy Principles

OW0209204092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1840 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Presidium of the All-Tatar Public Center and its committee on military issues and the committee on protection of military servicemen and draftees stated that the people of Tatarstan has authorized neither the president, nor the parliament, nor other ruling bodies to delegate security issues. That was reported after President Shaymiyev made a statement that Tatarstan delegates defense issues to Russia.

The Presidium of the All-Tatar Public Center and its committee on military issues believe that the problems of collective security should not be the subject of talks with the Russian Federation. Such talks are possible only within the framework of the CIS and security problems of Tatarstan should be controlled by the U.N. Security Council.

The Presidium made public the main principles of Tatarstan's military policy at talks with the Russian Federation on conclusion of a bilateral treaty. Among them are the status of Russian troops stationed in the republic; terms and procedures for their withdrawal from Tatarstan; the transfer of military stations, buildings, facilities, lots of land under the republican jurisdiction after the withdrawal; compensation for losses incurred by the troops and the military-industrial complex, terms for the withdrawal of ammunition and equipment related to mass-destruction weapons; terms for the liquidation of military committees on the territory of Tatarstan or their transfer under Tatarstan's control; the return by Russia, as the successor of the Soviet Union, of the share of money spent by Tatarstan for the creation of the Soviet Armed Forces; housing and pensions for military servicemen who are serving at the expense of the Russian Federation, and some other issues.

Kaliningrad Meat Retailers Shun Trade

PM0309084392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Report by G. Sablin from Kaliningrad; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A paradoxical situation has developed in Kaliningrad city and oblast in terms of meat supplies to the population. Large quantities of beef have accumulated in meat combine cold stores. Meanwhile the price for a

kilogram of beef at the Central Food Market has climbed to 200 rubles. At the same time meat stores are empty.

Steps taken by the oblast administration, which has allocated 2 million rubles from the budget to processing enterprises as compensation in view of their difficulties, have so far failed to produce tangible results. This measure has made it possible to cut the price of beef by 20 rubles and sell it at 65 rubles per kilogram. Despite this, retail outlets' undeclared boycott on meat continues. It appears that it is much easier and more lucrative for stores to sell imported cold drinks and chocolate in their meat departments. Like it or not, the conclusion has to be that only the privatization of trade outlets can force trade workers to focus on consumers' interests.

Official Says 'Enough Food' in St. Petersburg

LD0309084992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] There is enough food in St. Petersburg, but it is unavailable to low-income residents, said city soviet chairman Aleksandr Belyayev. The city authorities have taken responsibility for protecting the needy. As an ITAR-TASS correspondent reports, so far the supply of potatoes and vegetables in vegetable stores has been unsatisfactory. As for grain, there is enough to last for two and a half months, while there is enough flour for three months. There are also meat and dry milk reserves in the refrigerators. So the city soviet guarantees that St. Petersburg residents will not go hungry this autumn.

International Affairs

Pilots of Belgian Plane Under Investigation

AU0309110492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] The Press Center of Ukraine's Security Service has issued the following information. On 31 August 1992, at 1500 GMT, a two-seater light motorized aircraft [motodeltaplan] requested a flight control officer at Pryluky airport [Chernihiv Oblast] to give it permission to land. It was piloted by Belgian citizens (?Luke Lefer) and Karl [name indistinct]. However, having received permission to land, they continued their flight for another 20 minutes. As was revealed by Ukraine's Security Service officials responsible for Chernihiv Oblast, the Belgians had received permission to fly the Belgium-Lvov-Odessa-Kiev route, but they deviated from it. According to unconfirmed data, these pilots, on the pretext of technical problems with their plane, (?landed in various places), in particular, in Nikolayev, Kirovohrad, and Poltava.

During the inspection of the plane, (?objects) that it is prohibited to transport and use were found. The film in their possession showed anything but beautiful landscapes of Ukraine.

At present, the two Belgian citizens are staying at a Pryluky hotel until the circumstances of their violations during their flight over the territory of Ukraine are clarified.

An operational-investigation group of the Administration for [words indistinct] in Chernihiv Oblast has been authorized to clarify these circumstances.

Further on Conflict Over CIS Navy Schools

LD0309091792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1844 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Stetsyuk for TASS]

[Text] Sevastopol, 2 Sep—Two diametrically opposed interpretations of the same event were heard today by journalists at two news conferences held in turn at the Black Sea Fleet Headquarters and the Ukrainian Navy organizational group headquarters. Both news conferences were concerned with the future of the two higher naval colleges in Sevastopol.

Admiral Igor Kasatonov, Black Sea Fleet commander, accused the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and the Ukrainian Navy organizational group of violating the agreements reached and of "consciously making the situation more tense."

In regards to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's instruction removing the head of the Black Sea Higher Naval College from his post, Admiral Kasatonov stated that he intends to send a protest to the Ukrainian and Russian defense ministers.

Despite the sharp criticism of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and the Ukrainian Navy organizational group, the Black Sea commander spoke of the necessity of a rapprochment of positions and for constructive joint activities.

A delegation from the Russian Defense Ministry arrived in Sevastopol today and is holding consultations. A decision by the Russian and Ukrainian presidents should put a full stop to this disputed issue.

Further on Kravchuk on Upcoming IMF Membership

OW0209204692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1645 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine will win admission to the International Monetary Fund [IMF] as a full-fledged member, said President Leonid Kravchuk in Kiev Tuesday following his meeting with IMF and World Bank officials. According to the state leader, "we'll be able to cooperate with the organization. We'll be able to request the IMF to help Ukraine strengthen its financial and hard currency systems." Talks with the IMF officials were behind the closed doors, but sources close to the Ukrainian leadership note that the talks were held because the IMF officials wanted an active involvement at an early stage of the development of joint projects in order to make an impact on their implementation. A number of leading Ukrainian experts say that the IMF focuses attention on Russia, which detracts from their optimism and hopes for the IMF's tangible support any time soon.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: On the same day the IMF official was received by Ukrainian premier Vitold Fokin. The Cabinet head emphasized that today's "economic crisis in the republic is not purely Ukrainian" because it is characteristic of all republics of the former Soviet Union. He believes that "the first signs of stability have emerged in Ukraine in the operation of the basic industries." Fokin said that the government had prepared a plan "for concrete actions and measures to promote reforms." This comprehensive program is expected to be made public by September 15. It will cover the period up to the end of 1993, envisaging major changes to the budget and taxation systems, fiscal and monetary policies, with the monetary reform being its heart. An expenditures and safety net policy will be revised, and privatization and antimonopoly law will be made an active use of. The program will be sent for consideration by the Supreme Soviet.

Adopted Law Stimulates Hard Currency Investments

LD0209171592 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Summary] The adoption of the law of Ukraine on foreign investments has stimulated hard currency investments into our economy. Here are the facts obtained on the instruction of the Cabinet of Ministers at yesterday's press conference in Kiev: From May to August, the Finance Ministry of Ukraine registered 460 investments. Last year and this year, Ukraine drew international trade and economic treaties with Hungary, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Estonia, Greece, Turkey, Finland, the United States, Cuba, Vietnam, Mongolia, Iran, and India. The Finance Ministry of the republic has submitted a draft resolution to the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine which envisages establishing trade missions in 34 countries of the world.

U.S. Commerce Department Delegation Pays Visit

LD0209184392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] On 1 September, a news conference was held in the Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Ministry of Ukraine on the occasion of the visit of the delegation of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Its visit was organized by the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine.

The representatives of the U.S. state administration were studying possibilities for setting up cooperation with Ukrainian partners in the field of production and the processing of agricultural produce.

Statement Refutes Violating FRY Sanctions Embargo

LD0309090692 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1022 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mykola Maslov: "Statement of the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine Has Been Circulated in the UN Organization"—UKRINFORM headline]

[Text] UNO [dateline as received]—The text of a statement by the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine has been circulated in the form of an official document of the UN Security Council at the headquarters of the international community on 31 August. The statement refutes the reports of the mass media of foreign countries, including some member-countries of the CIS, on violations by Ukraine of the sanctions of the Security Council against Yugoslavia.

The statement notes that the study carried out by corresponding state bodies in regard to reports that Ukrainian vessels are transporting cargo along the Danube River and delivering goods and cargo to ports of the Yugoslav republics (Serbia and Montenegro) did not find evidence of violations of the UN sanctions on the part of Ukraine. In July and August the vessels of the Ukrainian Black Sea Fleet carried out several transit operations via the Serbian Danube port of Prahovo, during which the cargo delivered by water was taken to the railways and transported to the town of Skople in Macedonia. Those operations do not violate the clauses of the corresponding resolution, which allows transit via the territory of the SFRY. [Word indistinct] cargo in the direction of Yugoslavia is allowed let through the border only if the documents certifying transit are available, stresses the statement.

Soviet Property Transfer Solved in 15 States

LD0209223792 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] The problems of transferring part of former property of the Union for the diplomatic needs of Ukraine have been solved in 15 foreign countries, stated (Volodymyr Yalovyy), head of the department for organizing the use of foreign sites at Ukraine Foreign Ministry, today at a briefing for Ukrainian and foreign journalists. He commented on the results of the session of the Ukrainian-Russian commission, which took place in Kiev.

(Volodymyr Yalovyy) stressed that, very soon representatives of the joint commission will go to those countries in order to perform the acts of receipt and transfer of real estate.

Foreign Minister Arrives in Bucharest for Talks

LD0309143892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0903 GMT 3 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Dyakov]

[Text] Bucharest September 3 TASS—Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko arrived here today for a two-day official visit. He will have talks with Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase, during which the sides will discuss legal frameworks for expanding and stengthening relations between the two countries.

The ministers will also discuss the draft of an agreement on cooperation and mutual understanding, which will be subsequently signed by the heads of the two states. In the afternoon, after their talks, Zlenko and Nastase will sign a consular convention and an agreement on cooperation between Romania and Ukraine in culture, science and education. The Ukrainian guest will be received today by Romanian Prime Minister Theodor Stolojan.

The local mass media regard this visit as a chance to "frankly discuss territorial issues", which, Romanian politicians believe, exist between the two countries. This refers to Northern Bukovina and some districts of Odessa region, which are regarded as "Romanian lands" here.

Today's newspapers frontpage a coverage of a press conference arranged on Wednesday [2 September] by activists of the "Mihai Eminescu" cultural society from

Chernovtsy. It was claimed during the press conference that "Romanians, residing on the territory of Ukraine, are deprived of elementary rights".

National Affairs

Deputy Opposes Transfer of Warheads to Russia

AU3108120392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Text] In the opinion of Ukraine's People's Deputy Yuriy Kostenko, which he expressed for the Ukrainian press, it is impossible to fully agree with the conclusions reached by some departments on the need for Ukraine to simply transfer warheads to Russia. These warheads contain uranium and plutonium. The cost of these materials on the international market is estimated at up to $100 million per one tonne uranium and between $500 million and $1 billion per one tonne plutonium. Besides, points out the deputy, rich uranium and plutonium are extremely important energy resources and their secondary utilization for the needs of Ukraine's power engineering is worthwhile. This will help us resolve the problem of nuclear fuel for our nuclear electric power plants within a certain period of time.

Union Strike Effects Airports, Railways, Mines

Strikers Demand Tariff Agreement

LD0209164292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1624 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Alla Moiseeva]

[Text] Kiev September 2 TASS—Members of five Ukrainian trade unions went on strike on Wednesday [2 September]. Miners, pilots, airplane technicians, air traffic controllers and railway machinists downed tools indefinitely, paralyzing air and railway traffic.

Airports in Kiev, Denpropetrovsk, Nikolayev, Donetsk, Simferopol, Odessa, Lvov, Zaporozhye and other Ukrainian cities are closed. Railway workers in many transport centers have joined the strike. Miners in Pervomaisk, Krasnoarmeisk, Krivoi Rog and several other cities have put forward political demands—calling on the government to resign.

"We are fighting for a normal life for members of our trade unions who are tired of daily struggles for existence, from spiralling prices and economic anarchy," Sergey Klimov, deputy chairman of Ukraine's Independent Trade Union of Miners, told ITAR- TASS.

The government should urgently take measures to modernize mines to put an end to senseless tragedies. "Every million tonnes of coal extracted in Ukraine results in several human deaths," Klimov said.

From February to May trade unions submitted new tariff agreements, covering such issues as the cost of labour, working time, working and leisure conditions, labour safety and pensions, to the president, parliament and Ukrainian government, he said.

The Consultative Council of Free Ukrainian Trade Unions called on the president to assess the social situation in Ukraine realistically and hold talks with trade unions. However, in a month of talks with a government commission on tariff agreements only 34 of 300 issues have been discussed.

"The strike will continue until a tariff agreement between the government and free trade unions is signed," Klimov said.

"The agreement signed recently by the government and six other trade unions, including the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Ukraine, once again ignores the interests of workers," he said.

Industry Minister: Strike Illegal

OW0209203492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian Industry Minister Viktor Gladush declared illegal a strike initiated by the republic's Free Unions. Mr. Gladush, co-chairman of the Government-Union Relations Committee, also said the Cabinet of Ministers has launched a court case against the strike organizers. According to the Ukrainian minister, the republic's authorities consider the strike illegal primarily because state legislation forbids strikes in the air and transportation industries.

Conflicting information exists about the strike. According to reports of the Industry Ministry, practically all airports in the republic are closed because of the strike. Miners refused to go to work in three mines of the Donetsk organization Ordzhonikidzeugol. Railroad engineers are on strike on the Southwestern tracks and in the Darnitsk depot.

Meanwhile, Georgiy Fyodorov, Director of the "Krylya Ukrainy" State Airline's control service, said that no flights had left the Zhulyan Airport near Kiev, the International Borispol Airport in Kiev itself, or airports in Odessa or Simfropol by 19:00 hours local time on September 2nd.

According to information released by the coordinating council of the free trade unions, the authorities at Borispol Airport intended to introduce military air traffic controllers.

It was also announced that by 16:00 hours on September 2nd, 40 of the republic's mines were out of action, including those at Pervomaysk, Krasnoarmeysk, Pavlograd, Chernograd, Yenakievo, Makeevka, Novo-Volynsk and Krivoy Rog.

A conference has been called for 22:00 hours Moscow time to establish direct communication between the leadership of the Ukranian State Committee for Coal and the sector's enterprises in the Donbass and Lvov-Volynsk basin on the initial consequences of the strike.

The coordinating council has reported that on Wednesday in Kiev a meeting took place between its representatives and the presidential advisor, Valeriy Timchenko, at which the free trade unions were urged to end the strike. The republic's authorities agreed to sign a tariff agreement, but refused the demand not to prosecute the strikers.

The 100,000 strong membership organisations of the free trade unions, said in the coordinating council that they were beginning to put forward political demands for the resignation of Premier Witold Fokin and the Cabinet of Ministers along with the dissolution of the Supreme Council.

Transport Ministry Files Lawsuit

LD0209214892 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Statement issued by the prime minister's press service]

[Text] Yesterday, in the "Studio 1 December" transmission of Ukrainian television, a detailed account was given in a direct broadcast about the course of the negotiations between the government commission and the Consultative Council of the Free Trade Unions of Ukraine with regard to the arrangement and the signing of tariff agreements.

This intensive work lasted one and a half months, and although all measures were taken by the government commission [word indistinct] to satisfy more fully the demands of the Council of Representatives of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine, they were not able to reach a constructive agreement. Groundless demands for a wage hike and the granting of additional benefits require billions in costs, which at present, cannot be covered by the budget of the country. So, in accordance with the concept of remuneration for the work of aviators, the draft demands envisage an increase in the current wage by two and one-half to three and one-half times, and for air technicians the wage is expected to be up to 30,000 rubles [R] a month. This demand alone requires R3.5 billion from the budget of Ukraine. At the same time, by a demand of the Free Trade Union of Airmen, expenses for fuel and lubricants should be financed at the expense of the budget by 50 percent.

The Council of Representatives of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine, expressing dissatisfaction with the work of the government commission, has called upon its organizations to hold an indefinite strike from 2 September. This action began today. The majority of airports of the republic are not working and scores of trains have stopped.

In connection with this, the press service of the prime minister of Ukraine is authorized to declare that the strike contravenes current legislation. The law on the procedure for resolving collective labor disputes states that work stoppage as a means of resolving a collective labor dispute are not permissible, particularly in enterprises and organizations of the railway transport and civil aviation. Guided by this, the Ministry of Transport of Ukraine has filed a lawsuit with the Supreme Court of Ukraine to intercede by declaring the strike illegal, with all the consequences.

Strike Locations Updated

LD0309055092 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0525 GMT 3 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Shevel]

[Text] Moscow September 3 TASS—The strike of Ukrainian railwaymen which began on Wednesday [2 September] told on Russian railways as well. [sentence as received] The situation continued to deteriorate overnight, TASS learned on Thursday from the Russian Railway Ministry.

All cargo trains heading from Moscow to Kiev stay idle. Only half of all trains deliver cargoes from south eastern Russia to eastern Ukraine.

No strike was announed on the Donetsk, Southern and Dniester railways of Ukraine.

Air traffic controllers followed suit, however several aiports refused to strike, among them the ones in Kharkov and Lvov.

Military controllers replaces their striking civil colleagues in the airports of Odessa and Kiev, TASS learned by telephone from head on duty at the Odessa airport Igor Gladkov.

Three airplanes are expected to depart for Moscow and one for St. Petersburg from Odessa, he added.

The Kiev aiport will also be partially functioning, according to well-informed sources.

Air Crash Barely Avoided

LD0309093492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0918 GMT 3 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Din Inamov]

[Text] Moscow September 3 TASS—Military air trafic controllers who replaced striking Ukrainian colleagues misguided two airplanes and a crash would be inevitable had a civil controller not interfered, TASS was told on Thursday [3 September] by Vladimir Brodulev, deputy chairman of the Russian Trade Union of Air Traffic Controllers.

He did not specify in which of Ukrainian airports it happened, but said controllers, pilots, technicians and

other employees are on strike in the Borispol Airport of Kiev, as well as in Zhulyany, Donetsk, Chernovtsy, Lvov, Odessa, Simferopol.

Ukrainian air traffic controllers appealed for help to their colleagues in Russia, Belarus, Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Russian controllers said thay are ready to render financial aid, according to Brodulev.

In Odessa on the Black Sea coast, controllers conduct a sit-in strike. However, other services of the airport are functioning. Two planes suceeded to leave for Moscow on Wednesday and another one is prepared to take off bound for Yekaterinburg, TASS learned from Anatoliy Kuznetsov, commander of the Odessa aviation team.

Odessa controllers will not help land a plane flying from Las Palmas in Spain with Ukrainian fishermen on board, he added.

The strike was not supported by railway workers in Odessa and all passenger trains leave the city on schedule. However, they were stopped by striking railway men not too far from Odessa and it was decided to send the trains via Moldova, according to an official on duty at the Odessa railway station.

Vice Premier on Progress of Economic Reform

PM0209152392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Sep 92 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Kaushanskiy under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Reforms in Ukraine Will Proceed, First Vice Premier Believes, But Not so Quickly as He Would Like"]

[Text] Kiev, 1 Sep—On the last day of August Valentin Simonenko, the new 53-year-old first vice premier of Ukraine, met for the first time with local and foreign journalists and answered questions concerning the progress of the economic reform.

The vice premier at once made it clear that he does not intend to use "shock-therapy methods" in the economy. In his opinion, society is becoming increasingly convinced of the need for calm evolutionary work which will not allow a sharp drop in the population's living standards. The state sector, whose potential has been far from exhausted under conditions of active privatization, must have its say during the transitional period. Valentin Simonenko believes that the uncoordinated work of parallel structures, including parliament, the national bank, the government, and the state property fund, still acts as a brake on reforms. The decisions they adopt frequently contradict each other.

The Ministry of Economics, whose team in its present form Simonenko called "a torso without arms, without legs, and sometimes even without a head," must also become an important tool in implementing further reforms. As regards Ukraine's imminent withdrawal from the ruble zone, here, too, the vice premier urged people not to be in a hurry and not to give in to the former temptations to exert ideological pressure on the economy. Otherwise the new currency will turn into a heap of waste paper within a few months.

The citizens of Ukraine are very soon to feel the fruits of the first major measure in the program of reforms. In September a privatization account will be opened in a bank for each one of them. Its size will be 30,000 coupons plus 12,000 for those who do not have the right to privatize apartments. True, Simonenko did make the reservation that such a promising initial stage will require the prompt adoption of 32 legal acts, including two laws, in addition to those that already exist. But they have not yet been drafted.

Further on Briefing

PM0309081992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Lyudmila Dneprova: "Immediate Transition to Market Contraindicated for Ukraine, First Vice Premier Valentin Simonenko Believes"]

[Text] Kiev—As IZVESTIYA has already reported, Valentin Simonenko heads the Coordinating Council for Economic Reform set up under the Cabinet of Ministers. Approximately one month into the Council's work its head held his first press conference on the last day of August.

Having made the diagnosis—"formation of statehood accompanied by disruption of economic links and declining production"—the first vice premier indicated the method of treatment—movement toward a market economy. But an immediate transition to the market is inadvisable for Ukraine. While moving gradually toward it, V. Simonenko intends to utilize the state sector of the economy, which "is not yet exhausted," and therefore the vice premier intends to privatize it and "make it work for the state."

But, according to Simonenko, the IMF is not overjoyed by Ukraine's pragmatism, and a couple of weeks ago the National Bank received a letter warning that unless the Ukrainian reforms turned from documents into real action it could hardly expect to receive credits.

Meanwhile living standards have slumped disastrously. According to a poll carried out by the Ukrainian Sociological Service, last month two-thirds of the people of Kiev saw a general deterioriation in living standards: food, leisure, availability of clothing, and entertainment. Inflation was 25 percent in July. One dollar now fetches 325 coupons on the black market. For 100 Moscow rubles you get 150 local coupons.

The vice premier was forced to admit that there is "mounting discontent in society." In order to alleviate it somewhat the government was intending to do the people a favor by 1 September and open a privatization

account for every citizen of independent Ukraine and put 30,000 coupons in it. But it did not occur, because, as Simonenko admitted, "writing it down is one thing, seeing it through is another thing altogether." Now they are promising by 5 September to compile a list of all the savings banks and citizens that ought to have an account. But V. Simonenko gave quite definite assurances that prices will not rise on the first of the month, and he said that the persistent rumors to that effect were a case of "lack of belief in the future raising its head again."

Shipbuilders Examine New Project

LD3108134992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1251 GMT 31 Aug 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Anatoliy Kuznetsov for TASS]

[Text] Nikolayev August 31 TASS—The Ukrainian city of Nikolayev has long been Ukraine's main ship-building centre. It also made attempts to build warships. At the end of 1970s, local ship-builders made an attempt to challenge their St. Petersburg fellow-ship-builders and build a a helicopter carrier bearing the name of a wild bird "Khalzan".

During these days Ukrainian ship builders are discussing plans to resume the project which presents a great interest from the point of view of the creation of the Ukrainian ship-building programme, put forward by the city's administration. The proposed project reflects a great potential of the Ukrainian ship-building research institute and its design bureau which is capable of designing any kind of vessels.

Lutsk Electorate on Supreme Council Dissolution

LD3108163292 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Text] The press service of Volhynia regional Rukh [Ukraine People's Movement for Perestroyka] organization informed the NOVYNY Television and Radio Agency that a city electors' meeting took place yesterday in the Lutsk City House of Education. An initiative group consisting of 37 people was created to collect signatures with regard to holding a referendum on the dissolution of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, Volhynia oblast, and the Lutsk City Councils of People's Deputies.

A meeting of city inhabitants with deputies of the Supreme Council and Oblast and City Councils also took place yesterday on the central square on the initiative of the oblast organization of the Ukrainian Republican Party [URP]. Gennadiy Kozhevnykov, deputy of the oblast Council and chairman of Volhynia organization of the URP, expressed himself against a referendum on dissolving councils of all levels. At the same time, he spoke in favor of more actively influencing power bodies with the purpose of upholding citizens' interests. Kozhevnykov called for support for the Congress of Democratic Forces which, in his opinion, will become the second movement, stronger than the present People's Movement.

Coalition Group Campaigns for Early Elections

LD0209183592 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] According to RUKHPRESS, the coalition of democratic forces "New parliament for New Ukraine," which includes over 20 political parties, public organizations, and [word indistinct], held a session in Kiev in the secretariat of the People's Movement [Rukh].

Concrete issues connected with holding a referendum on an early sessation of authorities of the Supreme Soviet after new parliamentary elections in 1993 were discussed. The coalition of democratic forces has addressed citizens of Ukraine, enterprises, establishments, and organizations with an appeal to give financial help for holding the referendum.

At the session, the coalition also discussed its attitude toward the draft constitution and to the renewal of a permanently working roundtable with the participation of the president of Ukraine.

Belarus

Smolensk Air Division Begins Return to Russia

LD0309105592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1416 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By BELINFORM correspondent Sergey Nikonorov for TASS]

[Text] Vitebsk, 2 Sep—The pilots and mechanics of the Smolensk guards division of the military transport aviation, which was stationed in the town on the Dvina River, gathered for a farewell meeting. By decision of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry leadership, a withdrawal of hardware and personnel from Belarus to Russia has started. The guards formation has been stationed in Vitebsk for almost half a century. In June 1944, soldiers and officers of the division took part in liberating this town from the fascists.

Shushkevich Details Plans for Economic Revival

OW0109193692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1541 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "In Seoul I realized once again that Belarusian economy will not be led out of the crisis without a clear-cut and detailed programme for economic development," head of the Belarusian state Stanislav Shushkevich announced during a press conference on August 31. A few days ago, Shushkevich returned from South Korea where he took part in an international conference.

Shushkevich reiterated his plans to revive elements of economic planning, including the so-called five-year plans. Touching upon the position of the National Committee for Economy and Planning he described it as absurd. This government body does not work efficiently enough, he said.

Asked by IF [INTERFAX] if the blame for the current economic crisis should be laid on the Council of Ministers, Shushkevich said that part of the blame rests with the government bodies. He said, however, that he is also responsible for it. One should not try to find a scapegoat, though, he remarked.

He said he doubted reports about a contemplated reshuffling in the Belarusian government. "At least, Lebich did not submit any proposals to the parliament," he noted.

Sharing his South Korean impressions, Shushkevich said that he was very much surprised by the fact that in the streets of Seoul he did not see "people exhausted with hard work", despite a 10-hour working day. "If a 10-hour working day were introduced in Belarus, the trade unions would at last have something to do," he joked.

He described the economic situation as complicated and the current state of agriculture as catastrophic, aggravated by the drought. "Whether we like it or not, retail prices will be rising in Belarus," he said.

Speaking about the oath of allegiance to Belarus, he said that the defence minister will be the first officer to do so during the next session of parliament.

Shushkevich Favors Speediest Parliament Assembly

OW0209190492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Wednesday [2 September] session of the presidium of the Belarus Supreme Soviet in Minsk, presided over by Stanislav Shushkevich, decided that the political leaders planned to set the date for the next session of the supreme body of republican power.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: It is expected that this session will address two key questions relating to the nature of the future development of the Belarus state: the promulgation of a new republican constitution and setting the date for a republican referendum on confidence to parliament and government.

IF learned from sources close to the Supreme Soviet chairman that Shushkevich would suggest the speediest convocation of the session to the presidium members. Under current law the next session of the Belarus Supreme Soviet may only be called a month after the parliament presidium decides on its convocation. So the session is likely to begin in early October.

Oppostion Reaffirms Resolve To Force Referendum

PM0209101792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 1

[NEGA report: "Dissatisfied With Belarus Leadership"]

[Text] Belarus' leading political parties and movements have made a joint statement in which they confirm their determination to fight for a referendum to be conducted and for Belarus' present leadership to be changed.

The Belarusian People's Front, the United Democratic Party of Belarus, the Belarusian Social-Democratic Association, the Belarusian Christian-Democratic Union, the People's Democratic Party of Belarus, and the republic's free trade unions signed the statement.

Interbank Snafu Causes Nonprinting of IZVESTIYA

PM0209110392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Publication of IZVESTIYA in Minsk Will Resume When Belarusian Printers Receive Money for Printing"]

[Text] Regrettable though it may be for IZVESTIYA's employees and its readers in Belarus, IZVESTIYA has virtually not appeared in Minsk for two months now—just seven issues have been printed since 24 June.

IZVESTIYA has not been printed in Minsk because the Belarusian Press Center does not have the money to print the newspaper. According to our colleagues' data, the IZVESTIYA Publishing House owes them 2,658,100 rubles [R] for their services. At the beginning of the summer they agreed to work on credit, but when the amount of nonpayments passed a critical point, they naturally suspended production of IZVESTIYA until money is received from Moscow.

Consequently, the IZVESTIYA Publishing House is to blame for what has happened, or is it?

Here are the data of our accounts office. From 21 March through 21 July R5,960,840.53 was transferred from the IZVESTIYA Publishing House's accounts in Moscow to the current account of Minsk's Press Center. This amount not only covers all the Minsk printers' expenditure on printing the newspaper, but also partly constitutes an advance on the costs due in the next few months (a so-called prepayment).

It is known that the money was removed from IZVESTIYA's account at the commercial People's Bank of Moscow, but it did not reach the account of the Press Center at Minsk's Business Bank. The state banks of Russia and Belarus also stand between the sender and the recipient of the money, for it is their duty to register all interstate financial operations....

Only on 25 August did the Minsk people report that they had received R867,191.76 under payment note no. 648. All the account documents were at once consulted by IZVESTIYA, and it turned out that this R867,000 had been sent to Minsk back on 20 May, more than three months ago! Since then there had been three more transfers of money totaling R2,529,000. When will it reach its legitimate addressee in Belarus?

Today everyone is seeking his own ways and means to counter anarchy in at least some way. Minsk's Press Center, for example, is opening accounts at Moscow banks. There is hope that the transfer of funds will be reduced to three or four days, and production of IZVESTIYA in Minsk will again become regular.

Newsmen Admitted to Khimvolokno Production Unit

PM0209101192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1455 GMT 31 Aug 92

[From the "NEP" program]

[Text] It is difficult nowadays to surprise people with a sensation. Nonetheless, we dare to claim that in a few seconds you will witness such a phenomenon.

The point is that this is the first time that representatives of the press have been allowed to enter here. This is the first time that journalists have been allowed past the barrier beyond which there are the premises of the Svetlogorsk "Khimvolokno" production association's Ural-3 production unit where part of the former USSR's space program was implemented until very recently.

[Begin Mikhail Popkhovskiy, "Khimvolokno" deputy production chief, recording] This year a Belarusian program was drawn up for the creation of articles using carbon filament, carbon thread [uglerodnaya zhila, uglerodnaya nit] instead of wire, replacing copper. [end recording]

Moldova

Yeltsin Mediatory Role in Dniester Appreciated

OW0209135692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1248 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moldovan public learned with satisfaction about the Russian President Boris Yeltsin's consent to act as a mediator at the stage of political dialogue designed to determine the status of Dniester. Solution to this problem is of major importance for Moldova today, said government experts. There are two possibilities on this road, said Nikon Pyslaru, deputy chief of the Moldovan President's political analysis service.

If Moldova's parliament finds a form of compromise by voting in favour of a political status for Dniester, there will be enough resources available to ensure livelihood for Moldova's economy. Conditions will be created for electing a new parliament and for stopping speculations as to unification with Romania.

If the parliament fails to resolve the issue of political status for Dniester, there will be another spiral of war accompanied by Russia's economic blockade against Moldova, a deterioration in Moldova's economic situation and a threat of political coup, said the deputy chief of the President's political analysis service.

Many of Moldova's problems can be resolved only through Moscow's mediation, the expert concluded.

Dniester Leaders Brief Press on Current Issues

LD0209191792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] A news conference given by Igor Smirnov, president of the Dniester Moldovan Republic, and Grigoriy Marakutsa, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, was held in Tiraspol today. The meeting with journalists was held to mark the second anniversay of the formation of the republic. This is what we were told on the telephone by Andrey Safonov, director general of the Dniester Information Agency OLVIYA-PRESS.

[Safonov] At the start of the news conference President Smirnov noted that Tiraspol sent Chisinau specific proposals on demarcation of powers several days ago, but has not yet received a reply. The Dniester leaders also pointed out that the war has destroyed the self-sufficiency of the Dniester budget. However, if hostilities come to an end then it is possible that the deficit may be recouped by the year's end. The 350 million rubles [R] needed by the Dniester region were again blocked today at the National Bank of Moldova.

Finally, even up to the time of the Bendery tragedy, the Dniester Republic did not stop supplying output to Moldova, while Moldova stopped its deliveries in April, the Dniester Republic leaders stressed. They also stressed the importance of the agreement concluded with the Gagauz Republic. They reported that of the R60 million allocated by Tiraspol to Komrat, R30 million comprised the state fund of the Gagauz Bank. The regular army of the Dniester Republic, which is being set up, they added, will be inherently defensive in nature.

The Dniester president and parliament speaker pointed to the importance of the talks between Boris Yeltsin and Mircea Snegur in Moscow, and the fact that the Russian president assumed the role of mediator between the conflicting sides. They expressed confidence that the Dniester Republic will take part in the talks process as an equal.

Replying to a question on his attitude to General Lebed, Igor Smirnov described his attitude to the commander of the 14th Army as "the very best." Grigoriy Marakutsa added that General Lebed is an extremely decent and honest man, because he has not allowed peaceful citizens to die. Igor Smirnov and Grigoriy Marakutsa also believe that the future destiny of the Dniester Moldovan Republic depends on relations between Russia and Ukraine and also on the attitude of the Dniester people themselves to the state they have created. That is why it is necessary to continue the work on the democratization of all aspects of life and society.

Further on Briefing

OW0209203892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpt] President of the Dniester Moldovan Republic (TMR) Igor Smirnov announced that the Dniester leadership "was always in favor of a united Moldova and continues to take necessary efforts toward that aim." At a press conference held Wednesday [2 September] in Tiraspol on the 2 year anniversary of the TMR's declaration of independence, Smirnov reported that after the signing of an armistice agreement by the presidents of Moldova and Russia on June 3, the Dniester leadership sent a proposal to Chisinau on the future organization of the republic, "but we have not yet received an answer."

The president of the TMR spoke in favor of a delimitation of powers between Moldova and Dniester "under the conditions of a delegation of certain rights to self-government of the Dniester region in economic, cultural, and other spheres." "This can all be subject to negotiation," stressed Smirnov, "but Chisinau is reacting reluctantly to our proposals."

Chairman of the TMR Parliament Grigory Marakutsa emphasized that "Moldova's unity depends on the attainment of a mutually acceptable compromise on this matter." Marakutsa feels that complete economic conformity on the federalization of Moldova at the present level is "a better guarantee of the preservation of a unified independent Moldovan state."

TMR leaders stated that Moldova "pushed" Dniester toward the establishment of it own military formations, "diverging from their original plans to convert the republic into a democratic zone." They indicated that if Moldova abandons the plan to establish a national army, Dniester will follow suit. [passage omitted]

Dniester Casualties Noted

LD0309095792 Chisinau Radio Chisinau Network in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Excerpts] It was planned to mark the second anniversary of the independence of the so-called Moldovan Dniester Republic in Bendery today. [passage omitted]

A solemn meeting took place in the Palace of Culture to mark the anniversary. At it, Grigoriy Marakutsa [chairman of Dniester Supreme Soviet] for the first time, cited facts and figures which show—in a bad light—the proseparatist forces' adventure in the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova. During the conflict, the Dniester side alone lost about 500 guardsmen, Cossacks, and irregulars. There are over 1,200 wounded currently in hospitals, and 100 people are missing, MOLDOVAPRES reports.

Dniester Chief Sees No Secession, Notes Future

LD0309093992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1702 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 2 Sep—"The Dniester region is not going to secede from Moldova, because there are international accords on the integrity of borders and nobody would understand us if we did, especially those who help us," said Grigoriy Marakutsa, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Dniester region, in an interview to an ITAR-TASS correspondent today. In his opinion, after the Bendery tragedy, a dialogue between Chisinau and Tiraspol was necessary, but a compromise was possible only on the condition of preserving the region's state independence within Moldovan borders. Grigoriy Marakutsa, who at a referendum favored full independence, thinks that for the sake of peace, the Dniester population, could be persuaded to compromise.

"We have different views from the Moldovan leadership on the future of the republic and its integrity," Marakutsa underlined. "The point is not that Chisinau sees Moldova as a unitarian state or that Aleksandr Moshanu, speaker of the republic's parliament, openly speaks in favor of uniting with Romania. We believe that unification, which may take place one day, should be carried out on the will of the entire Moldovan population, not just a few politicians. Moreover, the Dniester region, which has never been part of Romania, should have the right to define its fate independently. Only the status of our own statehood within Moldova can give us this possibility," Marakutsa stated.

UN Mission Arrives in Dniester Region

PM0209131992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Svetlana Gamova: "UN Mission Notes Moves Toward Peace in Dniester Region"]

[Text] Chisinau—A UN mission has arrived in the Dniester region conflict zone. Its arrival is connected with the request of the Moldovan leadership to send observers to this region and replace the Russian peacekeeping forces with international "blue helmets."

The group of UN experts met members of the trilateral joint monitoring commission and recorded the readiness of both sides for compromise and for dialogue between Moldovan and Dniester region representatives.

The desire to find a common language is noticeable on another level too. Moldovan Prime Minister A. Sangeli has visited the Dniester region. This is his first visit for a year to the left bank of the Dniester, and for the first time of late, he was given a friendly reception by the population. Observers explain this by the trust which the new premier enjoys both on the right bank and in the Dniester region.

Envoy to Russia on 'Temporary Stay' of Troops

LD0209224792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1102 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 2 Sep—Unlike the Baltic states, Moldova does not insist on the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops and is prepared to agree upon conditions for their temporary stay on the territory of the republic. Petr Luchinskiy, the republic's ambassador to Russia, stated this in an interview published in the NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA newspaper [Independent Moldova] today. According to him, in the course of talks on military issues which are now taking place between the two states, Russia has treated the fact that Moldova is an independent state, that it will build its own armed forces, and that it lays a claim to a share of the arms of the former Soviet army with understanding.

However, Petr Luchinskiy stressed, Russian representatives at the negotiations are against leaving a considerable part of armaments at Moldova's disposal because of their fear of being accused of providing additional weapons for one of "the participants in the conflict" in the Dniester region.

According to the ambassador, the republic's desire to not have any foreign troops on its territory is not received unambiguously either, although Moldova's representatives have confirmed time and again that they realize that the restationing of troops is an exacting process and that it is impossible to carry it out instantly. The latest steps made by the Moldovan leadership—the signing of an agreement on settling the Dniester region conflict and the abolition of the state of emergency in the republic—ought to convince Russian inhabitants that we are prepared to tackle all issues by peaceful means, Petr Luchinskiy noted.

Commission Notes Crime Situation in Moldova

AU0309105292 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 28 Aug 92 p 5

[Commentary by Svitlana Chala in Chisinau: "In Case of Provocation—'Shoot'"]

[Text] Mob law has become a more frequent occurrence in villages of the Dniester Region. This fact has been noted by a joint control commission at a news conference for local and foreign journalists. The Dniester conflict has placed people on different sides of the barricades. Sometimes, they tend to talk to each other with the aid of weapons, which, today, are not in short supply on either the left or the right bank. A special operational-investigation group subordinated to the control commission is dealing with crimes committed with the use of weapons.

Its members believe that the cease-fire and the disengagement of the warring sides constitute the first step toward a stabilization of the situation in the region. The second step lies in establishing law and order in those areas where fighting was going on quite recently.

However, today, the main task of the peace-keeping forces is the mine-clearing of the territory on which combat actions took place not so long ago. According to

specialists' estimates, this territory occupies 250 square kilometers, and there is enough work there for two and one-half months. Sappers have already neutralized 4,500 various explosive devices.

A railroad barrier that did not allow the passage of freight trains has been lifted by decision of the control commission. Moldova, which had been losing 11 million rubles a day as a result of combat actions and blockades of the railroad, began to receive the cargo that has accumulated at the Rozdilnaya station in Odessa Oblast. It is true that passenger diesel trains are not yet allowed through the railroad bridge near Bendery: The Dniester leadership demands that, first, police detachments be withdrawn from the village of Varnita, situated near the town.

At the same time, the mass media express apprehension in connection with the presence of Russian peace-keeping formations in the conflict zone. In this connection, Lieutenant General Zhurbenko, who represented Russia in the joint command of the peace-keeping forces, said: "In conformity with the agreement, neutral forces that would not support either side were brought to the zone of the conflict. As soon as the task that we have been entrusted with is fulfilled, we will leave Moldova."

When asked about the notorious "third" force, Colonel Chirtoaca, Moldovan representative in the joint control commission, pointed out that the commission has no concrete facts regarding this, but apparently, here, we are dealing with "actions of very mobile groups" whose existence is explained by the fact that "there are people who have shown their worth in the conflict and do not want to withdraw from it." That is why the armed forces stationed in the region have received a clear order: In case of armed provocation—shoot to kill.

Catalog of Russian Newspapers Reduced

LD0209195492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1113 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau August [as received] 2 TASS—The Commission on Glasnost and Mass Media of the Moldovan Parliament has decided not to include in the 1993 subscription catalogues a number of Russian publications. The ban affected PRAVDA, PIONERSKAYA PRAVDA, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, DEN, RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA, SOVETSKY VOIN, MOLODAYA GVARDIA, PATRIOT, MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA, BOEVOI TOVARISHCH, PIONER and MOSKOVSKY LITERATOR.

According to Vlad Paskaru, deputy chairman of the commission, this decision does not run counter to the standards of human rights and freedoms proclaimed in the republic. It was taken after discussing the problem with Moscow, because expenditures on the transportation of Russian publications to Moldova have grown. In his opinion, no political or ideological considerations influenced the making up of a list of the publications not to be circulated by subscription in Moldova. For example, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, the newspaper with a very "unfashionable" name, was included in subscription catalogues, Paskaru stressed.

Nevertheless, observers point out that the above mentioned newspapers were often criticised by the Moldovan authorities for "a biassed interpretation of the situation in the republic", while the printing of PRAVDA, RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA and some other newspapers was suspended on more than one occasion. In the opinion of specialists from Moldpressfilatelia, it is quite possible that "abridged" Russian publications will appear at news stands or will be sold by newsvendors. It is also possible that the decision of the parliamentary commission will enhance the popularity of those newspapers, because it is common knowledge that what is forbidden is especially attractive.

Meat Production Down 32 Percent

LD0309092692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2315 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 3 Sep—Production and procurement levels of livestock products have substantially fallen in Moldova. This has been stated by Ion Urzika, head of the republic's main administration for animal husbandry of the Agriculture and Food Ministry. According to his figures, in comparison with the corresponding period of last year, from January to August the republic's meat production fell by 32 percent and milk by 15 percent. In the words of Ion Urzika, the fault for all this lies in the shortage of fodder, extremely low procurement prices for animal products, and delays in payment for the products.

Flights Grounded Due To Lack of Fuel

LD0209212292 Chisinau Radio Chisinau Network in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Because of a lack of fuel, Moldovan Aeroflot is canceling flights until 6 September. The Air Moldova company has used up its last reserves of aviation fuel and is making just a few flights on the Moscow and international routes, Stefan Fulga, general director of Air Moldova, told a MOLDOVAPRES correspondent. [passage omitted]

Kazakhstan

Status of Grain Harvest Updated

LD0209223192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0730 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Summary] Viktor Lukhovtsev, a correspondent for New Wave, reports from Alma-Ata on the latest details of the harvest in Kazakhstan.

Out of more than 20 million hectares of grain crops in Kazakhstan, one quarter has been mown. Wind-rows have been thrashed on about 5 million hectares. The average harvest is of 12 quintals per hectare. More than 5.5 million tonnes of grain have been delivered to thrashing floors. Silos have received 1,200,000 tonnes of grain, mostly barley and wheat.

The purchase price set by the state for the best types of wheat is 10,000 rubles to 12,000 rubles per tonne. Kazakhstan needs 10 million tonnes of grain to cover its own needs, while the total yield for this year has been estimated at 25 million to 30 million tonnes.

However, there are problems with manpower and equipment. In the days of the old Soviet Union, people from Russia, Ukraine, and other parts of the country would come for the harvest in Kazakhstan. This year the republic is trying to do everything without outside help.

The shortage in equipment is being dealt with by moving vehicles from one oblast to another as harvest progresses. About 10,000 trucks have already been transferred to northern areas from the South Kazakhstan and Dzhambul oblasts. Russia does provide some equipment: several thousand trucks have been sent to Kazakhstan from various Russian automobile plants.

Official Notes Decrease in Oil Extraction Rates

LD2808184192 Alma-Ata Radio Alma-Ata World Service in English 2030 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Recently a conference of workers of the Kazakhstan oil industry was held in the regional center of (?Aktogay) in western Kazakhstan with the participation of the prime minister of the republic, Mr. Sergey Tereshchenko. The conference discussed the state of affairs in the oil industry. Deputy Minister for Energy and Fuel Resources, Mr. (?Bekbulfinov), informed participants of the fact that rates of oil extraction have decreased this year and [word indistinct] some reasons for it including lack of modern equipment and a complex position with the financial security in the republic. It was stressed that the permission of joint enterprises with foreign firms is the only way out from the arising situation in the oil industry.

Economic Development Council Formed With Japan

PM0209101992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 1

[AEN report: "Kazakh and Japanese Economic Development Council Formed"]

[Text] As a result of negotiations between a delegation of Japanese businessmen, headed by former Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, and Kazakh Vice President Yerik Asanbayev and members of the republic's government in Alma-Ata, a Kazakh and Japanese Economic Development Council has been formed.

Among its plans for the near future are to open a Japanese trade delegation in Alma-Ata and to create joint enterprises.

Agreement Allows Mongolian Kazakhs To Return

LD0209133192 Alma-Ata Radio Alma-Ata World Service in English 2030 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] Mongolian Kazakhs are coming back to Kazakhstan, mainly to the northern regions (?of the) republic. It became possible due to an agreement between Kazakhstan and Mongolia. According to the agreement Kazakhs residing in Mongolia may come back to their motherland. For the past few weeks about 1,148 Kazakhs came back to Kazakhstan. All of them were provided with bread, jobs, and other conditions. To speed up the emigration process the government of the republic has (?called for) supplementary air lines between Kazakhstan and Mongolia.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev on Plans for Reforming Educational System

OW0209184392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The present crisis in the system of education might have even more disquieting consequences than the economic one, said President Askar Akayev at a meeting with college students and instructors in Bishkek on Tuesday [1 September]. According to the head of state who devoted 15 years of his life to teaching, education in Kyrgyzstan lags considerably behind the rates of progress in world science, technology and contemporary level of teaching.

An obvious fall in professionalism is in evidence in Kyrgyzstan as compared with the period between 1950 and 1970, when the republic succeeded in making a breakthrough in the area of education. "If Kyrgyzstan which embarked on the road of independent development doesn't want to find itself behind modern civilization, it has to launch a full-scale reform in education to be able to receive in 10-15 years a new generation

capable of getting naturally integrated into the world community", said A. Akayev.

He is against the attempts to resolve this problem with the help of revolutionary leaps: "fundamental reforms should be carried out evolutionally". Despite the economic difficulties and natural cataclysms "that swallow a large part of national revenues", his government will try to obtain funds to ensure social support for the teachers, the President said.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: On Monday the President signed a decree on doubling the wages of those who work in the system of education as of September 1, and gave instructions to allocate 500,000 rubles in aid to students from low-income families.

According to A. Akayev, his government also intends to allocate substantial amounts of money for training specialists abroad, in the advanced countries of Europe, America and Asia.

The head of state pointed to a considerable decrease in the intellectual level of teaching as a result of a brain drain in the direction of business, production and emigration "caused largely by the low level of teachers' wages". He called for the soonest adoption of a bill on education which was blocked at the latest parliament session. Serious changes can hardly be expected without such bill, A. Akayev pointed out.

Tajikistan

Nabiyev Holds Talks at Army Garrison

LD0209212692 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1600 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Interview with Dushanbe Garrison Commander Muhriddin Ashurov by unidentified correspondent in Dushanbe on 2 September—recorded]

[Text] As we have been reporting, President Nabiyev was in the capital's military garrison until 1700. Why? For answers to this and other questions, we draw your attention to our correspondent's interview with Muhriddin Ashurov, commander of the Dushanbe Garrison:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Dear listeners, at the moment we are talking to General Muhriddin Ashurov. We would like to know the stand of the forces of the Russian Republic regarding the present situation in Tajikistan and the position of the esteemed general.

[Ashurov] The position of the 201st Division stationed in Dushanbe and its (?units) in Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube is one of neutrality. We are presently neutral and are against supporting either the opposition or the government side. We want the people to see that we are neutral and have nothing to do with anyone. However, if our military (?personnel) or our depots that house military equipment are attacked, we as a military force will (?reply).

[Correspondent] Thank you. According to our information, Rakhman Nabiyev, president of the Republic of Tajikistan, was in the garrison. Have you met him, and if so, what did you talk about?

[Ashurov] At 1030 today, they [as heard] phoned and said that the ministers would be gathering in our division and that the president would hold talks with them. The president came to my office at 1100. After some time, Supreme Soviet Chairman Akbarsho Iskandarov also came in and they began talking. At this time I left. I have no idea what they talked about. It was around 1300 or 1330 when first Akbarsho Iskandarov and then the president left. Where? I do not know. However, you should yourself [words indistinct] that there is on one in our division, except the representatives of the military (?observers), no one else.

[Correspondent] Did you have any conversation with Rakhman Nabiyev?

[Ashurov] What would I have talked to Rakhman Nabiyev about? Except for hello and how are you. [Words indistinct] the morale of our troops is high [words indistinct]. Once again I say that we are neutral, we are not taking sides with anyone. We are a military force that belongs to another state, and our duty is envisaged as (?defense) against external enemies. [end recording]

Government Discusses Ongoing Crisis

Cabinet, Presidium End Meeting

LD0209210192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 2 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A joint meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers and Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan ended at about 2000 this evening. It adopted a statement stipulating the procedure for divesting President Nabiyev of his powers and rights. [Radio Rossii in Russian at 0500 GMT on 3 September in a similar report adds: "At the same time the situation in Dushanbe remains complex. Observers believe a State Council is being set up there on the Georgian model."]

We do not yet have the full text of the statement, but it is clear from the explanations of people who participated in the drafting of this document that lawyers could find a hitch. President Nabiyev is located on the territory of another state—on the territory of a Russian Army garrison. Well, let me add that the Russian military denies that Nabiyev is on the territory of any Russian garrison.

At about 1800, we received the first reports that armed clashes have resumed in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast. This was reported by the NEGA agency.

The Presidium of Tajikistan's Supreme Soviet has resolved to convene the 16th session of the Supreme Soviet on 4 September.

Statement on Nabiyev

LD0209193692 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Statement issued by the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Tajikistan Government in Dushanbe on 2 September]

[Text] With concern, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the government of Tajikistan inform the people of the republic that the [words indistinct] of Tajiks is facing a grave danger. The political, social, and economic situation in the republic has reached a point that there is a fear of disintegration and collapse of the state.

The all-republican headquarters, set up under the guidance of President Rakhman Nabiyev in the 15th session of the Supreme Soviet for the purpose of disarmament, has so far failed to do anything useful. The blood of many people was shed in Kurgan-Tyube and Kulyab Oblasts and in the city of Dushanbe and other rayons, and this frightening situation continues. The flames of civil war are today threatening the entire republic.

It is a cause for regret that President Rakhman Nabiyev has [words indistinct] from the resolution of the 15th session of the Supreme Soviet on the political and economic situation of the republic; moreover, by the [words indistinct] of different groups intends to continue its totally paralyzed rule and watches the bloodshed from a distance. (?The many) decrees he has issued, allegedly to stabilize the situation, have remained on paper because he has shown no action to implement them and [words indistinct].

This is evidence of the fact that the president has become an alien to (?reality) and to the problems of the people.

During the one year of its real independence, the Republic of Tajikistan has still not found its credibility and its deserved position in the international arena. The majority of agreements that have been signed by Rakhman Nabiyev have no strong basis or foundation. The people are unaware of their contents and aims. None (?of them) has so far been approved by the Supreme Soviet.

The president has no (?prestige) and credibility among the leaders of other states. This has resulted in declining economic relations, despite the lack of hostility between Tajikistan and these states. Land and air routes have been closed.

The president, for his part, has done nothing about this state of affairs.

It is felt that the president of Tajikistan is irresponsible, without authority, and an alien person to his state. Otherwise, how can one understand that it has now been three days since some members of the government, officials of the Cabinet of Ministers, and the presidential apparat were hostages for the sake of removing him from power, and the president is not showing readiness for talks, is still indifferent to their fate, and has taken refuge in the military units of another country?

These days, when all the Tajik people and the government of the republic are making preparations for the proud convocation of two great events, the president is staying at a distance from these events. These events are the international Tajik forum and the first anniversary of the independence of the Tajik state.

President Nabiyev has failed to organize solidarity and unity among the various political parties and organizations in the society, and is constantly violating the oath he took in the Supreme Soviet.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan and the Cabinet of Ministers, in view of the existing situation, resolutely express their lack of confidence in President Rakhman Nabiyev and consider that he has in fact been removed from power, noting also that it is impossible for him to perform his duty.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the government of the republic appeal to the workers, peasants, intellectuals, youths, all noble people of Tajikistan, parties, and organizations and the armed opposition groups to support this action; and to be ready for noble work and action, to be respectful of each other, to be patient, to refrain from bloodshed and other unseemly acts, to resolve all issues only through political means, talk, and by observing noble and humane ethics.

[Signed] The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan

Supreme Soviet Sets Emergency Session

LD0309053692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0450 GMT 3 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 3 September—The Presidium of Tajikistan's Supreme Soviet has announced an emergency session of the republic's Supreme Soviet on 4 September at which the issue of the social and political situation in Tajikistan will be examined.

This decision was adopted under pressure from those attending the rally in Shakhidon Square who are demanding the resignation of President Rakhman Nabiyev. At the same time, local observers doubt that the necessary quorum will be present at it. It is known that at the recent session held in August, barely two thirds of the deputies were present.

Yesterday evening, an appeal by the participants in the rally to the Presidium of the republic's Supreme Soviet, to President Rakhman Nabiyev, was broadcast on national television. They demanded that the head of

state relinquish presidential powers voluntarily and not aggravate what is already an extremely tense situation in Tajikistan. A number of members of the Cabinet of Ministers also appeared on national television with similar statements.

Leaders Intend to Demand Resignation

OW0309113192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1019 GMT 03 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Under a decision of its presidium the parliament of Tajikistan will begin an extraordinary session on Friday [4 September] to discuss the situation in the country, following the latest developments in the capital Dushanbe as well as Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube regions. Several leading figures reportedly intend to demand the resignation of President Nabiyev because they think he is incapable of controlling the situation and preventing a large-scale civil war.

On Wednesday several members of the presidential staff led by state secretary Rashid Alimov resigned and urged Rakhman Nabiyev to follow suit. [Paris AFP in English at 0747 GMT on 3 September in a similar report adds: "Imamov [chairman of the parliamentary committee for constitutional supervision] told AFP that local leaders from Nabiyev's home region of Kogand, traditionally strong supporters of the Tajik leader, were also now in agreement that he should quit and that his continued presence was "dangerous" for the country.

Other officials, including one of Nabiyev's closest aides, Bashid Alemov, Tajikistan's ambassador to the United Nations and United States, Lagim Gayumov, and representatives from various factories also spoke on radio and television demanding that Nabiyev tender his resignation."]

Sources close to the Tajik government do not believe that the parliament will go into session due to the sharp contradictions between different political groups.

Since last Monday the presidential palace has been controlled by refugees from Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube regions where armed clashes continue between armed groups of different political forces.

On Wednesday on behalf of the government, the acting Prime-Minister Jamshed Karimov sent a message to President Boris Yeltsin pleading for the non-interference in the current developments of the Russian troops stationed in Tajikistan. He reminded the Russian leader that not a single Russian has been killed in Tajikistan during the many months of fratricidal war.

There is a delegation of some 30 military observers of the CIS Joint Armed Forces in Tajikistan. The Commander-in-Chief Marshal Shaposhnikov has told IF [INTERFAX] that the question of sending a peacekeeping force to Tajikistan has not been raised, however, this might be discussed during the Thursday conference of CIS defence ministers.

Clashes Reported in Kurgan-Tyube

LD0309083592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0821 GMT 3 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and "KHOVAR" correspondent Salokhiddin Ergashev]

[Text] Dushanbe September 3 TASS—A new bloody clash between conflicting armed groups occurred on Wednesday [2 September] in the regional centre of Kurgan-Tyube, where clashes have been continuing for several months running and the number of casualties is growing steadily.

According to the Tajik Committee for National Security, it was not established so far who triggered the clash in the centre of the city, where two meetings were simultaneously being held—one by supporters of the president and the other by opposition forces. Neither is the number of casualties known yet, but both sides have reported several people wounded or badly beaten up. Chairman of the committee Shakhobiddin Sharipov said that exchanges of fire occurred in the city today, too. Public transport has come to a standstill. The shops and schools are closed.

The reaction of the republic's leadership is yet unknown. The Presidium of the Tajik Supreme Soviet and the government are busy looking for President Rakhman Nabiyev, whose whereabouts are still unknown.

CIS Forces Chief Arrives for Talks With Nabiyev

Officials Confused Over Visit

MK0209080592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Sep 92 pp 1,3

[Report by Oleg Panfilov under the general heading "Tajikistan": "Will Shaposhnikov Save Nabiyev?—The Russian Marshal's Strange Visit to Tajikistan"]

[Text] The CIS Joint Armed Forces chief's visit to Dushanbe was shrouded in mystery: Only a handful journalists learned of it just a few hours before the aircraft landed. In a short interview at the airport, Shaposhnikov merely said that the introduction of peacekeeping forces may be discussed during the visit, and for this reason he had brought experts with him. Journalists had to obtain further information about Shaposhnikov's visit by fair means or foul. All that was known was that the marshal will meet with President Nabiyev.

While waiting for a press conference with Shaposhnikov after his visit to the border detachment, journalists learned of an attempt on the CIS Joint Armed Forces

commander's life. This information came from Major General Ashurov, and it was not possible to confirm. Nevertheless, the marshal returned to Moscow to the surprise of his superiors, cutting short his visit.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent tried to find out about the agreement which observers presume was reached during this visit. His questions were addressed to Supreme Soviet leaders and members of the republic government, as the latest parliament session limited President Nabiyev's rights in the sphere of decision making.

Tajik Foreign Minister Khudoyberdy Khaoliknazarov: "Our ministry is not au fait with the plans for Marshal Shaposhnikov's visit, and nobody consulted with our staffers. Nobody can talk about introducing troops before a treaty between Russia and Tajikistan has been signed, and even then, the relevant legal basis is required. It is necessary to resolve the conflict in the republic through political methods. Only the Supreme Soviet can decide questions on the intervention of any other forces." Abdullo Khabibov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Legislation, Law and Order, and Human Rights Committee, also said that the committee knows nothing about the visit's aims. Ashurboy Inomov, chairman of the Constitutional Oversight Committee, noted that the question of introducing troops of any kind is not covered in the republic Constitution, and therefore, he believes that it is necessary to publicize the period for which troops are being introduced. Tajik Supreme Soviet Chairman A. Iskandarov, answering a question from NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent, simply spread his hands and said that he knows about the visit but that he, the parliamentary speaker, has been told nothing about its aims. Earlier, as NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent learned, he spoke of the unacceptability of introducing any kind of third force insofar as there is a possibility of resolving the conflict through political channels.

In the republic government and parliament, there are varied reactions to Nabiyev's proposed agreement with the CIS Joint Armed Forces commander-in-chief. The president's move in appealing for help to peacekeeping forces beyond the republic's borders was a surprise to many. Colonel Aminov, first deputy chairman of the Committee for the National Security of Tajikistan, believes that the introduction of troops from elsewhere could prompt a reciprocal reaction and generate anti-Army and anti-Russian feeling (if the subdivisions are from Russia). Troops from Turkmenistan and Kyrgyztan would prompt, more or less, the same reaction, as there is a persistent and long-standing hostility toward Turkic peoples in the republic. Although the conflict itself does not bear an inter-racial or interethnic [mezhnatsionalniy ili mezhetnicheskiy] character: In all this time there has not been a single anti-Russian speech or armed action.

There is another feature in the changeable political life of the republic. Having reaffirmed the republic's independence and cursed the peacekeeping mission by Anatoliy Sobchak and Yevgeniy Velikhov only three months ago, Kulyab's Imam Mullah Khaydar Shapripov convened an Islamic conference of representatives of Kulyab Oblast rayons 29 August. A delegate from Khodzhent and an unknown religious activist from Kurgan-Tyube took part in it. The conference resolved to approve the plan for introducing peacekeeping forces into the conflict region, which somewhat surprised observers from Marshal Shaposhnikov's team. In any case, the commander's visit will remain the main talking point. At the same time, it is believed in the republic that the transfer by President Nabiyev of his functions as head of state to some or other peacekeeping force is hardly likely to raise his prestige. Opposition leaders believe that the introduction of forces into the conflict zone will only delay President Nabiyev's resignation for a time.

Questions Remain Unanswered

PM0209134592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Karpov: "No 'Blue Helmets' in Tajikistan Just Yet"]

[Text] Dushanbe—The recently concluded visit of Marshal Ye. Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, has left local observers with many questions.

The main question is whether subunits of peacekeeping forces will be brought into the republic's hot spots. What conclusion Commander in Chief Shaposhnikov reached after studying the real situation in Kurgan-Tyube and Kulyab Oblasts is so far unknown even to high-ranking officials of the Tajikistan Cabinet of Ministers, since, of republic leaders, only President R. Nabiyev and Prime Minister A. Mirzoyev met with him—the latter, incidentally, last Saturday unexpectedly submitted his resignation from his post for health reasons and has been appointed the republic's ambassador to the FRG. The president's team has made no official statements on the results of the visit. A news conference which Shaposhnikov was scheduled to give for Tajik and foreign journalists did not take place, for reasons unknown.

Meanwhile, this question today takes on special significance in connection with the signing expected in Moscow this week of a wide-scale treaty on friendship, cooperation, and mutual aid between Tajikistan and Russia. The thing is that the political opposition and its representatives in the government of national conciliation is actively opposed to the very idea of the introduction of "blue helmets" into the republic.

"We consider the intervention of CIS peacekeeping forces in the republic's internal conflict to be premature," Deputy Prime Minister D. Usmon, one of the leaders of the Party of Islamic Revival, stated in conversation. "As we see it, political methods of solving the problems have not yet been exhausted in Tajikistan, unlike in other CIS conflict regions. The presence of

'blue helmets' is fraught with the risk of all kinds of provocation, which could lead to conflicts on interethnic grounds."

However, it has become known that the probability of the introduction of peacekeeping forces into the republic currently still under question. A group of military observers from the CIS troops staff headed by Lieutenant General O. Shalimov has been engaged in a delicate analysis of the situation in Kurgan-Tyube and Kulyab. It is due to reach a conclusion which will be submitted for discussion by CIS heads of states.

CIS Military Observers Begin 10-Day Visit

LD0109185692 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0000 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] A group of military observers from the CIS, including representatives of the ministries of defense from Russia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan and a delegation from the CIS Armed Forces, has arrived in Tajikistan. The group is headed by General Shamilov. During an interview with a correspondent of the KHOVAR agency, Shamilov said that during the coming 10 days the group will visit the conflict regions of the republic including Kurgan-Tyube and Kulyab oblasts and the rayons surrounding the capital of the republic to study the situation.

The general particularly stressed that the officers have come to Tajikistan at the invitation of the president. Their main duty is to determine the scale of the conflicts and their [word indistinct] to other countries of the CIS and to search for ways and means of separating the opposing sides. Shalimov stressed that the group of military observers will not take sides.

Further on Visit

OW3108144992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1419 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A mission of CIS military observers is currently monitoring the social and political situation in Tajikistan. Its head, Lt. Gen. Oleg Salimov, told our correspondent that the mission, consisting of 20 officers, had been sent to Tajikistan's Kurgan-Tyube and Kulab Regions following last week's negotiations in Dushanbe between Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev and the commander-in-chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov. The situation in the two regions remains unstable.

The mission is trying to make contacts with commanders of armed detachments, the regional administrations, and the local population. According to Salimov, at present the leaders both of conflicting groups and various political parties and movements are showing no hostility towards the mission. There have been no incidents.

Armenia

Ter-Petrosyan Consults Yeltsin, Nazarbayev

LD0209181392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1655 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 2 September—This evening Armenia's President Levon Ter-Petrosyan had a telephone conversation with President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin. According to the press service of the Armenian leader, the heads of the two states discussed the situation in Abkhazia and also matters relating to the supply of grain from Russia to Armenia. Levon Ter-Petrosyan informed Yeltsin about the situation on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan and in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Armenian president also had a conversation today with Nursultan Nazarbayev which centered on matters relating to the implementation of the Alma-Ata cease-fire accords.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1636 GMT on 2 September adds the following: "The Armenian president said that 'in principle, the situation is fairly quiet' but 'it is by no means normal' on the Azeri-Nagorno Karabakh border. Ter-Petrosyan emphasized that further developments on the Armenian-Azeri border directly depended on the Karabakh situation. 'You can't draw an arbitrary line between the two questions,' says the Armenian leader.

["Armenian press secretary Shugaryan emphasized that 'Armenia gives high grades to mediation by President Nazarbayev who is sincerely concerned over worsening tension in the region and does not seek to make political capital on the situation." According to the press-secretary, representatives of the Kazakh president will stay in Baku and Yerevan for a long time, but it seems impossible for the moment to send them to Stepanakert."']

It became known today from official sources in Yerevan that Levon Ter-Petrosyan's telephone conversation on 2 September with Leonid Kravchuk was devoted to a discussion of the situation in the region, the course of the cease-fire, and the unblocking of roads.

The Armenian leadership is continuing political consultations with the heads of the CIS states, the press service of the republic's president reported.

Armenian, Azeri Representatives To Meet at Border

LD0309081692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0731 GMT 3 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan September 3 TASS—A meeting of plenipotentiary representatives of the Azerbaijani and Armenian presidents is to take place today at a border point between Indzhevan District of Armenia and Kazakh District of Azerbaijan.

As announced on Wednesday [2 September] evening by the press service of the Armenian president, member of the standing commission for external relations of the Armenian parliament David Shakhnazaryan and Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Albert Salamov will discuss "several problems, linked with a cease-fire" in the region. Their meeting will be held with the mediation of personal representatives from the president of Kazakhstan, who arrived a couple of days ago in Yerevan and Baku to supervise the implementation of the Alma-Ata cease-fire agreements.

The proposal to stop hostilities in the region for 60 days, starting from September 1st, was made by chairman of the Minsk international CSCE conference for settling the Karabakh conflict, Mario Rafaelli, who visited Armenia and Azerbaijan last week. This idea was backed by the foreign ministers of the two republics, who met in Alma-Ata on the initiative and with the mediation of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Judging by official Armenian reports, it was relatively calm on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border in the morning of September 1st. Nevertheless, Yerevan is most disturbed by continuing hostilities in Nagorno-Karabakh. The Armenian side believes Baku is trying to show in this way that the cease-fire covers only to the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and does not extend to Nagorno-Karabakh, relations with which, from the Azerbaijani viewpoint, are a domestic affair of the republic. In the meantime, Armenia declares that the normalisation of the situation on the border between the two republics is closely linked with an armistice in Nagorno-Karabakh and urges to extend the Alma-Ata agreements to Karabakh.

Press Secretary of the Armenian President Ruben Shugaryan told ITAR-TASS that if the dialogue between Yerevan and Baku proceeded in a favourable direction, it would be possible to exchange representatives of the two republics, who would supervise the cease-fire in the two capitals.

Azerbaijanis Reportedly Refuse to Cease Fire

NC0309122092 Yerevan SNARK in English 1546 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] Yerevan, 2 September (SNARK)—The press-service of the Armenian president has announced that the stabilization of the situation in the region isn't expected because the Azerbaijan side has refused to cease the fire in Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijan doesn't want to admit that the independent military forces oppose Azerbaijan in Nagorno-Karabakh. This approach of the Azerbiajan Government shows its negative answer to the suggestion of Mario Rafaelli ceasing the fire.

Azeris Launch 'Major' Attack,' Occupy Village

NC0209182792 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1200 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] A large Azerbaijani Army detachment moving out of military bases in Fizulinskiy Rayon attacked the village of Edillu in Gadrutskiy Rayon with the support of armored cars and tanks on the night of 1 September. Armenian self-defense forces repulsed the enemy's attack the next morning. The Azerbaijanis retreated after suffering substantial human losses, whose number is being determined.

On the same night, Azerbaijani military units shelled (Gulakhlug) in Gadrutskiy Rayon with artillery and tanks. Four residents were injured and the village was damaged.

Azerbaijani Army formations shelled the villages of Kochohot and Pogosagomer in Mardakertskiy Rayon with artillery and Grad rockets on 1 September. They then launched a major attack against them on the night of 1 September. Following fierce battles, the residents and defenders of Khochohot abandoned the village. Two Azerbaijani tanks and an armored car were hit during the battle and almost 20 Azerbaijani soldiers were killed. On the Armenian side two freedom fighters were killed and 10 were injured.

The village of (Movsishen) in Askeranskiy Rayon came under Grad rocket fire from Agdamskiy Rayon on the night of 1 September.

The wreckage of the Azerbaijani aircraft shot down on 31 August has been found near Shusha [words indistinct].

Government Wants Russia To Investigate Planes

OW0309123192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1022 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenia has officially asked the Russian leadership to check the statement of the Azeri Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov that the war planes raiding Nagorno-Karabakh were surrendered to Azerbaijan by the Russian authorities. This was reported to IF [INTERFAX] by the press service of the Armenian president.

President To Visit United States 19 Sep

OW0309125092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1022 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan is to fly for an official visit to the United States on September 19. This was disclosed by his press secretary Ruben Shugaryan on Thursday. The main purpose is a speech at the UN General Assembly. The Armenian leader also hopes to meet President Bush. A meeting with members of the Armenian community in the USA is also planned.

Chairman Receives Iranian Envoy, Views Ties

NC0209182292 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] Yerevan, 1 Sep (ARMENPRES)—Armenian Supreme Soviet Chairman Babken Ararktsyan received Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Armenia Ahmad Sobhani yesterday to discuss regional problems, the expansion of bilateral relations, and the commencement of interparliamentary ties.

In welcoming the representative of the friendly country to the Armenian parliament, Ararktsyan highly assessed the Iranian leadership's efforts to consolidate stability and peace in the region and hoped that Iran's peace mission will continue.

Ararktsyan also noted the need to begin close relations between the two nations' legislatures; spoke about Armenia's grave economic situation, brought on by the unprecedented blockade; and enumerated his views on the establishment of effective mechanisms for monitoring the cease-fire agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Ararktsyan added that the enormous resources being spent on the war could have been used for peaceful purposes and for the nation's development. He added that the interests of the regional countries require the establishment of a stable peace.

Ahmad Sobhani thanked Ararktsyan for the reception and gave him a reply message from Iranian Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri. In his message, Nateq-Nuri thanked Ararktsyan for the congratulations extended to him on the occasion of his election and expressed his desire to forge immediate interparliamentary ties.

Ahmad Sobhani told the Supreme Soviet chairman that he would inform the Iranian Government about Armenia's economic difficulties immediately and will spare no effort in organizing the work for the resolution of these difficulties, and in deepening the cooperation between the friendly states.

Azerbaijan

President Says Armenia Violating Cease-Fire

OW0209165792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovsky, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey's press service issued a statement last evening which, in particular, reads: "In gross violation of the ceasefire memorandum, Armenia subjected to intensive fire a number of border

districts in Azerbaijan in the early hours of September 1. Apart from that, troops and arms were being transported from Armenia along the Lachin Corridor, which was also a violation of the agreements reached in Alma-Ata.

"This means either that Armenia uses peace negotiations as a smokescreen for continuing hostilities or that its political leadership is unable to control its armed forces. The actions of the Armenian army are being accompanied by a powerful propaganda ballyhoo about the alleged violation of the agreements by Azerbaijan.

"Azerbaijan regards this violation of yet another ceasefire agreement as Armenia's disregard of the peace efforts of the UN, the CSCE, the chairman of the Minsk meeting on Nagorno-Karabakh, Mario Rafaelli, and the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev.

"Azerbaijan intends to continue its efforts to attain a peaceful settlement for the Armenian-Azeri conflict, but the destructive position of Armenia, which rules out the possibility of achieving any acceptable compromise, and its repeated violations of ceasefire agreements, make it necessary to take effective measures against the aggressor."

IF [INTERFAX] Note: In an interview with IF, Armenian Prime Minister Gagik Arutyunyan was sceptical about the Alma-Ata ceasefire agreement. He said that, even before he had become Premier, he had taken part in the preparation of several such agreements but none of them worked. In his opinion Azerbaijan should put up with the idea that the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh have a right to live in their own land and defend it if it is attacked. The Armenian President's press secretary, Ruben Shugaryan, believes that it is the confrontation in Nagorno-Karabakh that is the ultimate cause of the conflict. He told our correspondent that a ceasefire would only be possible "if Azerbaijan started a dialogue at least with the military command of Nagorno-Karabakh, if not with its political leadership, because what Azerbaijan is actually confronted with is an army guided from Stepanakert." The chief press officer of the Armenian Defense Ministry, Gegam Arutyunyan, does not think that the memorandum signed in Alma-Ata provides for any mechanism for ensuring that fire is ceased. The government and the Defense Ministry, he said, do not see how the provisions of the document can be implemented. At the same time, Armenia is ready to take part in any negotiations and measures aimed at peaceful settlement in the region, Arutyunyan stressed.

Says Cease-Fire Refers Only to Border

LD0209210492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 2 Sep 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The ASSA-IRADA agency quoted Azerbaijani President Elchibey's address today to soldiers and officers of the National Army. The Alma-Ata memorandum on a cease-fire referred only to the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, he claimed. What was happening in upper Karabakh—meaning the mountainous part of Karabakh—is our internal affair, the president said.

[Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1600 GMT on 2 September, in the "Vesti" newscast, adds: "At a meeting with soldiers and officers of the National Army in Gyandzha, Azerbaijan's President Abulfaz Elchibey said that the Azerbaijani people will continue the fight until all occupied lands are liberated."]

Ministry Reports Armenian Cease-Fire Violations

NC0209180392 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Statement issued by the Defense Ministry's Analytical Information Center in Baku; date not given]

[Text] Armenia's interpretation of the cease-fire agreement reached in Alma-Ata on the disputed zone between Azerbaijan and Armenia has led to a violation of the agreement. Kazanchi in Zangelanskiy Rayon was fired on with various types of arms at around 1800 yesterday. Kokhne Kyshlakh in Akstafa was hit with machine gun and automatic weapons fire at around 2000 last night. One of our fighters was wounded. Shyukyuratag in Zangelanskiy Rayon was hit with fire from Armenia's Megrinskiy Rayon at about the same time.

Police posts in the Badabad locality in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic's Shakhbuzskiy Rayon were fired on from the direction of Armenia's Sisian Rayon last night.

Additionally, Armenia has not abandoned its attempts to supply combat equipment and armored vehicles to Yukhary Karabakh. The enemy tried to send a convoy through the Lachin corridor twice last night. However, its effort was unsuccessful.

The firing on our residential areas in the disputed region was maintained last night and this morning. Yukhary Yemezli, Kazanchi, Seidlyar, Agkend, Shyukyuratag, and [name indistinct] in Zangelanskiy Rayon and Novly in Kubatlinskiy Rayon were fired on from Armenia's Kapanskiy Rayon last night. Mormor and Mutudere in Kedabekskiy Rayon were also fired on from Armenia's Krasnoselskiy Rayon last night. One of the fighters in Kubatlinskiy Rayon was seriously wounded.

Shilli, Abdal, and Gyulably in Agdamskiy Rayon were hit with artillery fire from the Armenian positions in Yukhary Karabakh last night.

The situation in Kazakhskiy, Tauzskiy, Kel'badzharskiy, Terterskiy, Fizulinskiy, and Dzhebrailskiy Rayons has been peaceful.

Talks With Armenia on Border Accord Postponed

LD0209170792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1654 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] Baku September 2 TASS—Talks and the signing of a bilateral agreement should have begun on

Wednesday [2 September] in Kazakh region on the border between Azerbaijan and Armenia. However, according to the AZERINFORM news agency they have not yet begun. Mediators in Baku and Yerevan are having a dialogue by telephone.

The departure of the Azerbaijani delegation from Baku to the place of the meeting has been postponed because the Armenians are refusing to accept a provision in a draft agreement about the establishment of a border regime between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Azerbaijan's presidential spokesman Niyazi Ibragimov said.

This clause in the agreement could put an end to deliveries of weapons along the "Lachin Corridor" to Upper Karabakh from Armenia and Armenians cannot accept this, according to Ibragimov.

The Azerbaijani side informed officials in Yerevan that it does not oppose deliveries of humanitarian cargo along the Lachin Corridor, according to Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov.

This confirms the true reasons of the unwillingness of the Armenian side to accept a compromise, the minister said.

Elchibey Prefers International Mediation

LD0309110192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0859 GMT 3 Sep 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Natan Barsky for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Baku September 3 ITAR-TASS—"In the Karabakh conflict we prefer mediation by international organisations rather than individual states," Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey told the newspaper "KHEYAT".

The president set out the reasons. First, international organisations are guided in dealing with such problems by the legal norms accepted in the world community, and these norms are aimed at curbing territorial claims that, as a rule, underlie many conflicts. Second, Elchibey regards an agreement mediated by international organisations as more reliable because it contains a mechanism to make sides fulfill obligations.

The president highly assessed the CSCE mission to establish peace in the region and voiced conviction that "this organisation will play a more active role in settling the Karabakh problem, curbing Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan." "We," he said, "agree to have on the border of the two republics international forces and observers in Nagorno-Karabakh."

Gasymov Asks Rafaelli for CSCE Border Observers

NC0209125292 Baku TURAN in English 0829 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] Baku, 2 September (TURAN)—Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Tofik Gasymov called on the Chairman of the Minsk's Conference of CSCE for Nagorno-Karabakh Mario Rafaelli to place the CSCE observers along the Azeri-Armenian common border.

This appeal has been made in connection with conclusion of the Alma-Ata memorandum.

[Baku TURAN in English at 0830 GMT on 2 September adds the following: "Though the Alma-Ata cease-fire agreement has been broken through Armenia's fault, Azerbaijan does not abandon the idea of peaceful settlement of the military conflict.

["TURAN agency was informed that the Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan is working up the question on forming a special group of observers to be set along the Azeri-Armenian common border. Azeri Foreign Ministry does not rule out the possibility of sending its observers to Yerevan and placing the Armenian observers in Baku, if the states manage to reach mutual agreement on the subject."]

Taiwan Said To Provide $10-15 Million in Aid

NC0209131992 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 0939 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] Baku, 2 September (ASSA-IRADA)—Taiwan intends to render humanitarian aid of 10-15 Mln. [million] dollars to Azerbaijan. The agreement about that has been reached in the course of the official visit to this Republic of Azeri Government delegation headed by First Deputy Premier Abbas Abbasov, ASSA-IRADA was told in the Cabinet of Ministers. Taiwan has expressed readiness to make investments in Azerbaijan's oil refining and chemical industries, and also to train Azeri students in their higher schools. In the late October, beginning of November during the return visit the treaty of fundamentals of trade and economic cooperation are expected to be signed between the two countries.

Georgia

Further Reportage on Developments in Abkhazia

Cease-Fire Approved Until 4 Sep

LD0209205292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2035 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoria]

[Text] Sukhumi September 3 TASS—Georgian and Abkhazian military leaders ended talks in Sukhumi on Wednesday [2 September] night, signing an agreement to cease fire and military operations until September 4.

The Georgian side was represented at the talks by commander of Georgian troops in Sukhumi Georgiy Karkarashvili, his first deputy Zurab Nairashvili and Sukhumi Commandant Georgiy Gulua, and the Abkhazian side—by National Guards Commander Viktor Kakaliya and former Interior Minister Aleksander Ankvab.

Karkarashvili said that all Abkhazian POWs will be freed as well as volunteers who have arrived from northern Caucasus.

After the talks Aleksandr Ankvab told Georgian Television that he was expecting the Moscow summit to end all military actions in the region. "Even if politicians fail to reach agreement, the military will meet again on September 4 to achieve a cease-fire," Kakaliya said.

Moscow—Despite the cease-fire agreement signed by the Georgian and Abkhazian military leaders, late on Wednesday Abkhazian troops took several Georgians hostage in Gudauta Region, according to a report by the Georgian mission in Moscow.

Military Subunits To Stay

LD0209161492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Georgia will be taking to Moscow a number of constructive proposals on a peaceful settlement to the conflict, according to Georgian Vice Prime Minister Aleksandr Kavsadze.

One of these proposals, he said, is the withdrawal of detachments of Georgian volunteers from Abkhazian territory, but only if there is a cease-fire from the Abkhazian side and only if fighters from the KGNK [Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus] are withdrawn. At the same time, however, official Georgian military sub-units will remain in the region.

Volunteers Returning Home

LD0309103892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0920 GMT 3 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Zhilyakov]

[Text] Sochi (Krasnodar Kray), 3 Sep—Last night the first instances of the return home of volunteers from Adygeya and Kabardino-Balkaria (republics in the North Caucasus) were recorded at Russian posts on the border with Georgia. They had been taking part in the military activities on the side of Abkhazia. Twelve people were allowed to cross the border unhindered, as they did not have firearms or other weapons.

From the first days of the military conflict in Abkhazia, internal troops and border guards took control of the border with Georgia, which previously had been of an extremely notional nature. Now, on the Russian side of it, from the Black Sea to the snowy summits of the Caucasus Mountains (total length 65 km), checkpoints are operating and five border posts are functioning. Thanks to this careful work, in this area not a single group of armed people has crossed into Abkhazia, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by the kray security committee.

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Fighting

OW0209173892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1637 GMT 2 Sep 92

[First part of interview with Eduard Shevardnadze, State Council chairman, by unidentified correspondent; prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Question: How would you assess the current situation in Abkhazia? What underlies the conflict? Can it go beyond the local borders and, if it can, how can this be prevented? Do you think the conflict may acquire a religious tinge?

Answer: The situation is extremely complicated, so I wouldn't limit it to the borders of the Abkhazian Autonomous republic. Provoked by the ethnic extremists, the internal crisis quickly broke beyond the Republic of Georgia, entangling a number of North Caucasian republics, and southern Russia into it. We have got confronted with a sharp regional crisis which may evolve into a big war. It is clear now that such a course of events was envisaged and even planned by the initiators of the conflict. Manipulating the crisis and political and economic instability in Georgia which are being knowingly aggravated by the terrorist gangs and by a forced split into several fronts, they cynically pursued the policy of provocations and challenge, calculated for solid external support.

This material, technical, information and military support has assumed such a scope and character that we have every right to qualify the events as the international terrorists' aggression against a sovereign state. When one appeals to ethnic kinship and unleashes bloodshed, dividing the victims into "ours" and "theirs", one can easily fall into blood feuds fuelled by religious intolerance. The arsenal of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples—an illegal organization which loudly announced its program here in Abkhazia, during a congress in Sukhumi, is quite diversified. And when an Abkhazian leader spoke shortly before the August events about "sufficient strength for a struggle for independence which no nation has attained by constitutional means", the plan and scale of the political adventure revealed themselves in all its disgusting clarity.

Q: What do you hope your Moscow meeting on Abkhasia set for September 3 will produce? What proposals are you working on? Are you willing to seek compromise? It the final list of participants in place?

A: There is no alternative to a peaceful political settlement of the conflict. Nothing but peace, a cease-fire, normal dialog and withdrawal of all out-of-Georgia mercenaries can boost negotiations on all disputed issues—I can't wish or wait for more. But I've already said and am ready to repeat that we'll gain nothing if either side turns a deaf ear to the arguments of the other side and ignores its legitimate interests. A compromise is always a result of movement to meet one another

halfway. As always, I'm ready for that, as are the other partners. I've invited Chairman of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet Vladislav Ardzhinba and his first deputy Tamaz Nadereizhvili to participate in the Moscow meeting.

Q: Is it possible that peacekeeping forces will be moved into Abkhazia, the way it was done in Tskhinvali region?

A: The situation in Abkhazia is quite different from Tskhinvali, there is no copying the methods. We've been moving our military units on our own territory, seeking a well-defined objective: to safeguard vitally important arteries and liquidate terrorist strongholds. The Abkhaz leadership which did not address these tasks in due time was notified of our plans and intentions and agreed to the movement of our troops. But the first unit was met with fire, and a conflict flared up. Having suppressed the flames of warfare, we cannot go back on the objectives we plan to meet. Peace-keeping efforts must be aimed at achieving these objectives, and we're ready to cooperate with everyone willing and able to help us.

Q: What role do you believe Russia can play in settling the Abkhazia conflict? How different is Russia's position from Georgia's?

A: I believe that our positions are largely identical. First of all, we seek an immediate cease-fire and ensuring territorial integrity. Thirdly, an end should be put to the chain reaction of separatism in all its forms and manifestations. I value the role of Russia and its president in settling this and other conflicts. Russia is doubtlessly a guarantor of stability and peace in this important region. Georgia is its natural historical ally, and those seeking to drive a wedge between us, between Georgia and—believe me, this is not an old propaganda cliche—fraternal nations of the northern Caucasus. are doing a disservice to them and the Russian state as a whole. I've warned for a long time that playing various ethnic "cards" will lead to problems not only for Georgia. I'm right, unfortunately.

Q: What do you think of the position of the Russian armed forces, in particular the Russian troops in Transcaucasia on the developments in Abkhazia.

A: The neutrality they have proclaimed is the only correct position though, according to the data of our intelligence services, individual servicemen are providing advisory or other services to the mercenary bands, but this is a sorry exception.

Q: What's your vision of Abkhazia's future and its status?

A: Only as part of a united Georgian state. Issues relating to status, state setup, division of powers and functions will be covered in the future talks. There is one thing I can state with full responsibility: the rights of the Abkhaz people, and of the other peoples living in Abkhazia will be reliably guaranteed and safeguarded by appropriate constitutional acts and state statutes.

Q: Do you believe that the new parliamentary election in Abkhazia makes sense? It is a fact that the Abkhaz parliamentarians outnumber the Georgians in the current Supreme Soviet though twice as many Georgians live in the republic than Abkhazes.

A: You're quite right, the old regime enacted an outrageously unjust electoral law under which 17 percent of the electorate sent 28 deputies to the parliament, and 48 percent, 26. This resulted in an ethnic dictatorship, with the minority imposing its will on the majority of the population, which led to a destabilization and an explosion in the autonomous republic.

Q: Are you satisfied with the development of the situation in South Ossetia? Did the peace-keeping forces rise to the challenge in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetia conflict?

A: There is a cease-fire in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetia conflict, the peacekeeping forces are up to their functions, but I can't say I'm satisfied with the status quo: attempts to upset the process are too apparent and frequent... Attacks, killings of our servicemen and civilians, explosions of mines, robberies—all of this is a fact, and for as long as it is a fact, there's no speaking of quiet. The situation of the refugees is alarming as the flows of returnees are unequal. Tskhinvali, in which the Georgians accounted for a large section of the population before the conflict, is currently closed to the Georgians. A large number of Georgian villages are now empty. There is a great danger of gang attacks, protection against them is weak, and the material support is at a low level. The war did not dehumanize the people. Meeting on the ruins of their common home, the Georgians and the Ossets pull together to rebuild it. They will live the way they lived previously, in the same facility, the same region, the same state.

Abkhaz Chairman Ardzinba Interviewed

LD0209160192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Sep 92 p 3

[Interview with Abkhaz Supreme Soviet Chairman Vladislav Ardzinba by Galina Lapidus on 1 September; place not given: "Vladislav Ardzinba Refutes"]

[Text] Yesterday Abkhaz Supreme Soviet Chairman Vladislav Ardzinba gave a telephone interview to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. He refuted information coming out of Tbilisi 31 August about his alleged television statement on the formation of an Abkhaz-Mingrelian state to be "governed by Ardzinba and Gamsakhurdia."

[Ardzinba] I learned of this "statement" from the media. The first thing I can say is this: In the last week, with due consideration for the nature of the difficult situation which has taken shape on the territory of Abkhazia, I have not spoken on television, and I have not made any kind of statements on television, including one about

creating some kind of Abkhaz-Mingrelian state. I consider this a forgery whose aim is known only to the author of this falsification.

[Lapidus] It is believed in Abkhazia that the Georgian side is trying by every possible means to implicate you in an alliance with Gamsakhurdia....

[Ardzinba] Yes, I understand, they want to discredit me in the eyes of the whole world along the lines of the "tell me who your friend is" principle... We will not enter into an alliance with anybody.

[Lapidus] Are you maintaining any kind of link with Zviad Gamsakhurdia at the present time?

[Ardzinba] No, naturally, we have not maintained and are not maintaining any kind of link. In general, much is being done to discredit the Abkhaz leadership at this time, and this is quite clear. Therefore I would ask—and this clearly is extremely important—that the reliability of any report proceeding from the Georgian side, particularly if it is ascribed to the highest official, be verified through the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet Press Service. It is hard for me to believe that Shevardnadze, for instance, could knowingly say false things, but yesterday (30 August—NG) [date as published], in a telephone conversation with me, the State Council head declared that he knows nothing about the cease-fire agreement signed 30 August in Sochi, including by a Georgian official. I immediately talked to him about this agreement, about its main principle proposing an end to the bloodshed. I told him: "If you share this principle, if you agree that all questions should be resolved through political methods and that bloodshed should not be tolerated, then—whether you know about this agreement or not—if you share this principle, give the command to cease fire, to halt the offensive." But as you know, it continued yesterday, and it continues today.

I also want to refute recurrent disinformation on the alleged participation of Russian Army units in this confrontation.

[Lapidus] But the mass media have repeatedly stressed that Russian troops in Abkhazia are observing neutrality....

[Ardzinba] Of course neutrality is being observed. Admittedly this causes us great distress: The peaceful civilian population is being wiped out, human rights are being flouted in the grossest manner, and in addition military facilities are also under fire. The Russian population, which in the early days tried to shelter from the fire on the territory of military units, has now been deprived of this option—the military themselves are hiding in the bomb-proof shelters. The military are observing....

[Lapidus] Do you believe that it would be logical if the Russian troops were to take one side or the other?....

[Ardzinba] No, in no way do I consider this logical. I believe that Russia should make some kind of statement, as for all this Russia is a great state, it is a permanent member of the UN Security Council, and such a state should declare more clearly that force should not be used to resolve contentious questions, and that blood should not be spilled.

[Lapidus] Are you presupposing that such a statement will be issued at the 3 September meeting?

[Ardzinba] I hope so. In principle, it has already been issued in Boris Nikolayevich's appeal aimed at Georgian and Abkhaz leaders. This principle is precisely what will be stressed there. It is wrong to strive for one's political aims through force rather than via international law.

[Lapidus] What, in specific terms, do you expect from the 3 September meeting?

[Ardzinba] First and foremost I expect a decision on stopping the bloodshed.

I believe that this is a war not between Georgia and Abkhazia—it is not against the Georgian people that we are fighting now, but against the leadership which is conducting a militarist policy and sending its own armed formations here.

[Lapidus] Mr. Ardzinba, do you have any kind of contacts with the "Democratic Abkhazia" ["DemAbkhazia"] Georgian faction of the Abkhaz parliament now?

[Ardzinba] Members of our parliament maintain specific contacts with them. But I cannot ignore the fact that the parliament first deputy chairman (T. Nadareishvili—NG) actually helped to obtain the introduction of troops onto Abkhaz territory—he is responsible for the bloodshed and for the horrors which have rained down on the people. Furthermore, he is the leader of an unconstitutional organ, which was created on Abkhaz territory—in some senses, he is a putschist [gekachepist].

[Lapidus] You mean, there is a total split?

[Ardzinba] I believe that there are still some wholly sober people in this faction who evaluate the existing situation with great anxiety. It is both possible and necessary to work with them in order, with their help, to get out of the impasse.

[Lapidus] Do you believe that Georgian troops will embark upon a mass offensive?

[Ardzinba] To all intents and purposes they are already doing this. Last night (31 August—NG) they broke through the defenses, stormed into the village of Eshera, and fired at close range from tanks on the homes of peaceful citizens and, with these same tanks, wiped them from the face of the earth. As a result of opposition, the Georgian troop unit left the village. But the bloodshed did not end. Today, new forces have been introduced there, and all day long shots ring out from the 125-mm tank cannon and from the 120-mm howitzers, nicknamed "Jasmine," which are wiping out what took decades to construct.

Shevardnadze 'Worried' About S. Ossetia

OW0209131692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1246 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze told IF [INTERFAX] on Wednesday [2 September] that he was worried by the situation in South Ossetia. "Although the cease-fire agreement is observed in the zone of Georgian-Ossetian conflict, and the peace-keeping forces cope with their duties, attempts to foil peace settlement are becoming more frequent and evident. Attacks, the murders of our soldiers and civilians, explosions, shooting and plunder are still there, so there can be no talk about tranquility, he said.

The Georgian leaders are worried about the position of refugees who keep coming back home at uneven intervals. Tskhinvali, the city in which the Georgian population constituted a large part, is still closed for Georgians. Some of the Georgian villages are still empty. The danger of bandit attacks is still great, the population is not adequately protected and the material support is insufficient.

Asked about the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Georgia and his plans in this connection, Eduard Shevardnadze said that he will take part in them. He advocates the parliamentary way of government. "Unfortunately, the presidential rule has discredited itself so much in Georgia that no one wishes to hear of it," said Shevardnadze. "Parliament will decide which form of government suits Georgia best," he remarked.

Shevardnadze also said that so far the former parliamentary faction "Round Table - Free Georgia" has not demonstrated any wish to take part in elections. I am not sure, he said, that the faction exists in its former shape, but as far as I know, some of its parties will participate in the elections.